



Daily Report

Near East & South Asia

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Daily Report

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Palestinian Affairs

PNC's 'Aql Interviewed on Settlement Options

PM1605140790 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT
in Arabic 13 May 90 p 6

[Interview with Palestine National Council (PNC) Member Basil 'Aql by Huda al-Husayni; place, date not given]

[Excerpts] [al-Husayni] Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat said recently that he was tired of diplomacy. Does that mean that the peace line which he has pursued since Geneva has reached an impasse?

['Aql] I think that the statement attributed to president 'Arafat was conveyed incompletely. This is because 'Arafat does know tiredness, and he must have used the word "tired" in the context of other aspects of current endeavors. I do not believe that he is getting tired of an endeavor in which he believes, which he is pursuing, and which he has pledged to continue right to the end.

[Al-Husayni] So peace is not at an impasse?

['Aql] The peace process is long and hard. We know that and we will face several situations which will give the impression that the road is almost blocked. But what we agreed in Algiers in 1988 and then in Geneva in December 1988 means that we approached a new door and a new method in the search for peace for the Palestinian issue. We have known since then that the door we approached leads to a long, winding, and difficult road. This is why the difficulties facing us now are not new to us. And in that context, and in the light of what is being said in Palestinian and Arab circles at present—namely that the time has come for us to reexamine the peace strategy—I say that I disagree with such talk. Because I am among those who believe in the soundness of the Palestinian political decision adopted in Algiers and Geneva. And I believe it is wrong to talk about backtracking on these decisions. But I believe that it would do no harm to conduct a revision and an assessment and ask: Why have these decisions not borne fruit until now? [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] What you achieved was that the United States initiated a dialogue with the PLO, but without recognizing it as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative.

['Aql] The U.S. Government's agreement to initiate a dialogue with the PLO means, without any doubt, its recognition of the PLO. Perhaps the agreement did not include a clause stipulating the PLO as the Palestinian people's sole legitimate representative. But Washington's engagement in a dialogue with the PLO definitely means its recognition of it. As for our dealings with the United States, for our part we stated that we are the sole legitimate representative.

[Al-Husayni] At that stage the Americans said that it was they who wrote 'Arafat's Geneva address and that they refused to change any sentence in it. What truth is there in this?

['Aql] I do not believe that is accurate.

[Al-Husayni] And is there any truth in it?

['Aql] I have no knowledge of it.

[Al-Husayni] You businessmen....

['Aql] You moderates.

[Al-Husayni] You, including the businessmen, hold talks with Yasir 'Arafat and discuss decisions. Can we say that you are enthusiastic about the U.S. peace line?

['Aql] There is nothing called enthusiastic about the U.S. line. We look at the world realistically and believe that the U.S. Government is the government of a superpower which has a, if not the, fundamental role in the peace process. This is the reason for the interest in U.S. policy and the U.S. line, not out of love for the United States, but out of love for Palestine in view of the importance of the U.S. role in achieving a settlement leading to the recognition of the Palestinian people's national rights. This is the reason for the enthusiasm about the need to conduct a dialogue with the United States. But that does not mean that the U.S. position is sound or that we always defend it. On the contrary, most, if not all, moderates in the Palestinian political structure feel very bitter as a result of the U.S. Government's slack position vis-a-vis the peace process, especially after the peace campaign launched by the PLO in 1988.

For 10 years the United States told Yasir 'Arafat: You must put your cards on the table. You must recognize Israel. You must be realistic. [passage omitted]

The U.S. Government says it understands the Palestinian position and knows that the Palestinians have offered what they can, but they must not forget that the Democrats represent a majority in Congress, and thus the present Republican administration cannot take effective steps toward forcing Israel to accept foundations for a just peaceful settlement of the Palestinian issue.

And I use the term "deception," because the Democrats' majority in Congress has existed for 10 years. The Democrats have had a majority in Congress since the start of President Ronald Reagan's era. But despite this the United States on every occasion sent us messages requesting us to recognize Israel and Resolution 242. It did not tell us then that the Democrats were a majority and thus it could not make an effective move.

Now that we have accepted Resolution 242 and Israel's right to exist, the U.S. excuse is still the same.

So the U.S. position is not serious, and all moderate Palestinians believe so. They are going through a transformation phase resulting from their feeling of frustration and bitterness and disapproval of the slack U.S. policy, which is looking for excuses in order not to confront the Israeli Government with a strong, effective position. The best proof of slackness is the U.S. Administration's position on the decision by the Congress' two parts, the Senate and the House of Representatives, to regard Jerusalem as Israel's capital.

First: What right has the U.S. Congress to regard Jerusalem as Israel's capital?

Second: What is the U.S. position? It does not go beyond words. That decision is not binding on the U.S. Administration.

Why does the U.S. Administration not make a clear statement to declare that decision illegal, especially as to date the U.S. Government has not recognized Jerusalem as Israel's capital? Since 1948, U.S. ambassadors have presented their credentials to Israeli presidents in Tel Aviv, not Jerusalem.

This is the most recent and notable example of the U.S. slackness and its disinterest in the Palestinian peace campaign launched in 1988. Besides, what guarantees are there for us that no new U.S. Administration will come along and say that the Congress' decision is binding on it? [passage omitted]

[Al-Husayni] Despite his enthusiasm about the Palestinian issue and the Palestinians, President Carter hesitated to recognize an independent Palestinian state?

[Aql] I had the opportunity to attend president 'Arafat's meeting with President Carter in Paris. I also met with him on several occasions before that. I never noted that he was against the establishment of an independent Palestinian state. This is my conclusion, and he believes that the Palestinian people will not accept anything less than an independent state.

[Al-Husayni] We know that a meeting was held in London this week between some Palestinian moderates and some Israeli officials. What happened?

[Aql] I have no knowledge of that meeting, but I heard it did not include Israelis. It was merely discussions between some Palestinians and influential U.S. Jews. The discussions revolved around the economic aspect and dealt primarily with economic cooperation between

Israel and the Arab states. I understand that the main point in the discussion was the need to achieve a settlement first and then establish the Palestinian state before economic cooperation can be discussed.

[Al-Husayni] You say that the discussions dealt with economic cooperation between Israel and the Arab states. Who entrusted the Palestinians with that task?

[Aql] Economic cooperation when peace is established; nobody entrusted anyone, and I see no harm in individual initiatives, because the discussion was academic more than political. It focused on views and individual judgments concerning the future. I personally believe there is no harm in this.

[Al-Husayni] You were in the delegation which went [to Damascus] for the sake of reconciliation with Syria, but matters were suspended. Who is responsible for that failure?

[Aql] Let us not speak of responsibility or blame. I have long participated in attempts to mend the rift in Palestinian-Syrian relations, but for many reasons we have not been able to reach an understanding or overcome obstacles. But I still believe in the need for a Palestinian-Syrian reunion, in Syria's importance for the Palestinian issue, and in the issue's biological link to Syria and the other Arab states.

[Al-Husayni] Are there any new attempts?

[Aql] They are continuing and have not stopped.

[Al-Husayni] You insist on peace, when some Arab states have threatened to destroy half of Israel if it attacks them. Can peace and destruction coincide?

[Aql] You are referring to Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's statements. He was speaking about a defensive, not offensive, position. His statements were conditional: He used the word "if." I have no objection to any Arab leader taking a stand similar to President Husayn's, announcing his determination to bring double retaliation on Israel if it tries to attack him.

[Al-Husayni] Do you see a war on the horizon?

[Aql] I do not see a war on the horizon, but neither the Palestinian people nor the Arab nation have dropped the fighting option. We are pursuing the peace line. We are tired of wars, destruction, repression, and suffering. We want to provide peace for our children after us. We want to concentrate on development, evolution, and building in our country. [passage omitted]

Algeria

President Bendjedid Assassination Attempt Denied

LD1705200890 Algiers Television Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Before dealing with the news in detail, let me open a parenthesis to mention the strange way news reports are dealt with by some French Television channels—particularly Channel 5—whenever the point at issue is the democratic process in Algeria. When a party recently organized its march, they amplified it, but when some national parties and organizations undertook a march in order to entrench democracy they ignored it, as if democracy does not concern its protectors, or those in the world who claim to be defending it.

Today, when the FLN [National Liberation Front] organized a march to boost the democratic process, French Channel 5 broadcast a false and surprising news report to the effect that President Chadli Bendjedid had been subjected to an assassination attempt, at a time when we know that President Chadli Bendjedid was honoring the African struggler Nelson Mandela, hosting a luncheon banquet in his honor.

It is up to you to judge the credibility and honesty of French information.

17 May FLN March Attracts 'Huge Crowds'

LD1705144190 Algiers Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 17 May 90

[Excerpts] [announcer] Large crowds of citizens, men and women of all ages and from all sections of society, today responded to the FLN [National Liberation Front] call to take part in the march for the defense of the nation's firm principles and sovereignty and in support of the democratic process. Over to you, Mohamed Chelouche.

[Chelouche] Indeed, Mesaoud. It did exceed all expectations, and we were surprised when we got to 1 May Square, the march's starting point, as we could hardly move. The march started as planned at 1000 but there was hardly any movement, as it was virtually impossible for anyone to move. The committee in charge of the organization had given details and instructions to make things easier. However, it seems that the participation exceeded all expectations. [passage omitted]

While we were part of the huge crowds taking part in the march, our colleague Khedidja Benguenna was following the officials, and she has this to say:

[Benguenna] Yes, at the end of the march, in the Martyrs' Square, Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN secretary general, gave a news conference which was attended by representatives of the national press. He talked about the success of this march, and said:

[Mehri] The FLN staged this march, like all the other marches which preceded it, to safeguard the democratic

process, the country's firm principles and the people's gains, and also to express the FLN's determination to ensure the success of the political and economic reforms required by the situation in the country—and above all to guarantee the democratic change, in which the people are consulted for all the important issues. I am pleased with the success of this march, which confirms once again that the FLN remains a popular force, a force of dialogue and a force which brings together popular energies. In my opinion, all the marches could be complementary—they are not marches opposed to one another.

[Benguenna] In fact, very few people were expecting the participation of such huge numbers of citizens in today's march. Mr. Mehri himself admits that, as he said:

[Mehri] I believe that the success was more than we had anticipated at the political bureau. We were confident of the success of the march, but the people's response was larger than we had anticipated.

[Benguenna] With regard to the women's participation in this march, Mr. Mehri adds:

[Mehri] If women were present in the march, this proves that their absence from the lists of candidates [for the municipal and provincial elections of 12 June] is only a temporary matter. Their presence in the march is more significant. The Algerian woman should have confidence in what she is doing, with regard to her conduct and her role as a full member of society. If she wants to wear the veil, she can, and if she does not want to wear the veil I believe that it is necessary that we respect her feelings.

[Benguenna] This was part of the news conference held today by Mr. Abdelhamid Mehri, the FLN secretary general. [passage omitted]

Egypt

Communists Seen 'Clinging to Idols of Socialism'

JN1705204890 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
16 May 90 p 5

["Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] Every time Egypt and the USSR have sat down to talks, the Soviets have demanded that censorship be imposed on Egyptian press; that Egyptian papers refrain from broaching human rights abuses in Russia and Soviet-occupied countries; that top Egyptian media posts be filled by communists, in order to promote communism to the Egyptian public; and to sack whoever exposed communism for what it is, or even have him suppressed or detained.

Formerly, Egypt obliged unquestioningly—it was part of the price Egypt had to pay to remain in Moscow's good books. Moscow only had to tell us what to do and we would comply. The year 1964 saw President Jamal 'Abd al-Nasir and the communists mending fences. However, before the

reconciliation, the communists stipulated that all detained communists be released and then appointed to media and cultural positions, meaning that each released communist found an instant appointment waiting for him in the press, radio and television, the cinema, and the theater. And so the communists had control of the Egyptian mind, and set about molding it as they pleased.

1968 saw Soviet tanks crush Czechoslovak youths picketing the radio and television station in Prague. Not one word was said in the Egyptian press about the Czechoslovak uprising against the Soviet occupation. In contrast, the 1956 uprising in Hungary received extensive coverage: The Egyptian newspapers had yet to be nationalized, and Moscow's instructions had yet to arrive.

As time went by, Soviet interference became more visible until it reached our Armed Forces—a sacred cow that must remain off limits to foreign influence. The Soviets also poked their noses in education and religion and instructed that al-Azhar University's role be curtailed and its scholars' image tarnished. Egyptian communists were meticulous in carrying out these instructions. All state agencies were wide open to them to advance the objectives of world communism.

When 'Abd-al-Nasir departed from the scene, al-Sadat destroyed the vestiges of the Soviets, which was why the communists gave him no peace. They even would not recognize the victory of October. When the Soviet Union was swept by change, communism and socialism came under attack from Moscow itself—from Gorbachev, no less. One would have expected Egyptian communists to follow Moscow's suit, but they are still as obdurate as ever and will not change even if their masters have. They are even criticizing Gorbachev for having heeded the call of his people and seeking to feed them instead of giving them an empire that can never satisfy their hunger. Egyptian communists are still clinging to idols of socialism—the public sector, free education, one-party rule, rigged elections, and corruption. Having let them down, Karl Marx has apologized to the workers of the world, but Egypt's communists will neither retreat nor apologize.

Action Urged Against Countries Helping Emigration

NC1805082890 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0638 GMT
18 May 90

[Text] Cairo, 18 May (MENA)—AL-AKHBAR newspaper has called on the Arab countries to find a practical deterrent to those countries participating in the transfer of thousands of Soviet Jews to Israel.

In its editorial today, the paper says the way Arabs are protesting to those countries which participate in the filthy crime being perpetrated in favor of Israel has no direct effect in persuading them to refrain from involvement in this crime.

The paper notes that, by this act, these countries are seeking to please the U.S. Congress members, who are

rotating in the orbit of Zionist organizations in order to obtain huge financial assistance.

In conclusion, the paper emphasizes that the Arab and Islamic worlds will not forget the hostile stance of these countries toward the Arab nation. It also asserts that these countries' interests in any Arab or Islamic country will be endangered if they insist on their immoral attitude.

USSR Asked To Contain 'Threat' of Immigration

JN1705203690 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic
16 May 90 p 4

[Editorial: "Guarantees...and Soviet Jewish Immigration"]

[Text] Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel topped the agenda of the talks between Presidents Mubarak and Gorbachev.

It is no exaggeration to say that for us Arabs who are still waging a struggle against settlement activity since it began in Palestine in the forties, Jewish immigration is the most serious issue we have had to face in our contemporary history. We are talking in terms of millions of Soviet Jewish immigrants who will be housed not only in Israel proper, but in the occupied Arab territory as well.

In fairness to the Soviet Union, it must be said it is not to be held solely responsible for the serious threat overshadowing the Arab nation. Likewise, it must be said that it is largely up to the Soviet Union to contain this threat and keep it from spreading to the occupied Arab land.

The Soviet Union, along with other world and regional powers, must take it upon itself to make certain that the emigration of Soviet Jews—facilitated in the name of human rights—does not take place at the expense of the Arabs, and more particularly the Palestinian people whose rights are now being trampled under Israeli tanks in full view of the whole world.

Reportage on Mubarak's Visit to United Kingdom

WA1705175690 txt

For reportage on the visit by President Husni Mubarak to the United Kingdom, please see the United Kingdom section of the 17 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Libya

Chadian Foreign Minister Leaves After Talks

LD1705205290 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1840 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Tripoli, 17 May (JANA)—Chadian Foreign Minister Acheik Ibn-Oumar left Tripoli this evening after participating in the joint Libyan-Chadian meetings.

Al-Qadhdhafi Meets 'Arafat; 'Arafat Departs

*LD1705202590 Tripoli Television Service in Arabic
1930 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] The brother leader of the revolution today received Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat. [Tripoli JANA in Arabic at 1857 GMT on 17 May reports the following: "Palestinian president Yasir 'Arafat left Tripoli this evening after a visit to the Great Jamahiriya."]]

Mauritania

Senegal River Dam Construction Work Resumes

*AB1605151790 Paris AFP in French 1822 GMT
14 May 90*

[Text] Nouakchott, 14 May (AFP)—Construction work on the dam on the right bank (Mauritanian side) of the Senegal River resumed on Sunday after it had stopped for one year following the conflict between Senegal and Mauritania.

The work site, pictures of which were shown yesterday evening on Mauritanian television monitored in Nouakchott, was visited the same day by the high commissioner of the Senegal River Development Organization (OMVS: Mali, Mauritania, and Senegal), Mohamed Ag Hamani of Mali, and Mauritanian Water Supply and Energy Minister Soumare Oumar.

The OMVS high commissioner, who was received today by Mauritanian head of state Colonel Maaouiya Ould Sid'Ahmed Taya, expressed satisfaction with the resumption of work on this dam, which he described as "vital for agriculture and the people of the area."

Work on the dam began at the end of 1987. It is situated between the town of Rosso and the Diama dam and the reservoir will be 71 km long. As of now, this area will be inundated if the floodgates of the Manantali regulator dam are opened. When completed, this dam will provide a water level necessary for year-round navigability of the river and favorable agricultural production.

The French construction company handling the project has claimed an additional 36 percent of the original cost, which is estimated at 36 million ouguiyas (about 3 billion CFA francs) due to the new conditions created by closure of the border with Senegal. This is caused by the problem of local building materials which were coming from the Senegalese bank of the river and which would now have to be obtained in the Akjouf area, 150 km to the north of the Mauritanian capital.

The Senegalese workers, who constituted a third of the work force working on the dam, have been replaced by Malians and Mauritians. The Senegalese have been reassigned to other sites belonging to the organization in Mali or Senegal.

For observers, the resumption of work on the dam demonstrates the willingness of the three member countries of the organization to continue their efforts to develop the region.

President Receives NSRCC Member With Message

*EAI705160290 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic
2145 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] The Mauritanian president, Maaouiya Ould Taya, received a letter from Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, chairman of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC], when he received Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin Khalifah, NSRCC member, in Nouakchott yesterday. Staff Colonel Muhammad al-Amin stated that during the meeting they discussed issues of mutual interest. He noted the matching viewpoints of the two sides on all these issues.

Morocco

Iraqi Envoy Conveys Arab Summit Invitation

*JN1605181790 Baghdad INA in English 1715 GMT
16 May 90*

[Text] Rabat, May 16, INA—President Saddam Husayn's personal envoy to King Hassan II of Morocco, Mr. 'Abdallah Fadil, endowments and religious affairs minister, delivered here today the president's message to the Moroccan monarch inviting him to attend the Arab summit due in Baghdad on 28th of this month.

The envoy delivered the message during an audience with the Moroccan king here today attended also by Crown Prince Mohamed, Moroccan Foreign Minister Abdellatif Filali and both countries' ambassadors in each other's capitals.

Portugal's Soares Ends Official Visit to Morocco

*LD1705220290 Rabat Television Service in Arabic
2030 GT 17 May 90*

[Excerpt] After His Majesty King Hassan II and his honored guest, Portuguese President Mario Soares, inspected a formation of the Royal Guard, which saluted them, the monarch bade farewell to his guest, who concluded his official visit to our country. The visit was at the invitation of His Majesty King Hassan II. Then the Portuguese president started a private visit to Morocco. The visit will last a few days, and will start in Fes. [passage omitted]

Sudan**Al-Bashir on Coup, Ties With Egypt, Libya**

JN1705114490 Cairo AL-SHA'B in Arabic
15 May 90 p 3

[Interview with Lieutenant General 'Umar Al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council, by Muhammad Jamal 'Arafah in Khartoum; date not given]

[Excerpts] ['Arafah] Your Excellency, does your announcement that Sudan's identity has been decided and that there will be no return to secular rule mean the following two things:

First, the question of applying Islamic law is now decided and unnegotiable with the rebels;

Second, the new proposed political organization must be in line with Sudan's Islamic identity?

[Al-Bashir] Concerning the first part, the resolutions of the national dialogue conference, which was held last year, made this point absolutely clear. Both the Islamic shari'a and the traditions are the main sources of legislation. We abided by the resolutions of the conference and adopted them as policy for the government. The proposal on federation, on the other hand, gives provinces with non-Muslim majority the right to detach themselves from any laws concerning religion. We think that this meets the requirements of diversity in Sudan.

Concerning the second part, the political organization will be open to all Sudanese irrespective of their religion or race. The organization is meant to get the people effectively involved in authority. Identity or religion, clearly, do not affect membership of this organization. [passage omitted]

['Arafah] Why were the accused officers in the latest coup attempt executed so quickly?

[Al-Bashir] Speed is a characteristic of military law and courts. The aim of these laws as envisaged by the legislator was to make decisive decisions. The issue was clear: Some people were involved in a coup, rebellion, and disobedience. The punishment, even in the law of criminal courts—let alone the military law—is death. Such a decisive verdict was essential because we are responsible for a country, and no one can appease in these matters. We are responsible for the nation and we are convinced that any attempt to hinder the march of the nation is an act of treason that requires full deterrence. Most of those arrested were caught red-handed. Although some people were out of the military service, they were wearing uniforms; they went to military units and issued orders. There was a need, therefore, to put them before field military courts.

['Arafah] But it is said that two persons were executed although they were in prison during the coup attempt.

[Al-Bashir] The two were arrested before the coup attempt for proved engagement in antigovernment activities. The investigations showed that they were the true leaders of the coup; they planned for it and had been arrested before the last meeting to set the zero hour took place. The two were 'Uthman Ballul and Muhammad Qasim Qasim.

['Arafah] Have the negotiations with the rebel movement ended now that the movement was proved to have taken part in the latest coup attempt and prepared for an air landing at Khartoum airport?

[Al-Bashir] The negotiations with the rebels did not break up despite the continuation of their war against us in the south and their participation in coup attempts against us. We are continuing negotiations with them because we decided to settle the problem peacefully.

['Arafah] What about integration with Egypt? Is the program of integration reached during al-Mahdi's rule now over? Or are there other formulas?

[Al-Bashir] There is an agreement between us and our brothers in Egypt to activate the integration projects. We have authorized our ambassador in Cairo together with another person to coordinate projects. [passage omitted]

['Arafah] What is new after an integration agreement was signed with Libya?

[Al-Bashir] After signing the integration agreement with Libya, we drafted the headquarters and general secretariat agreements which were sent to the brothers in Libya for study and comment so that a final formula can be reached.

['Arafah] Following the quadripartite meeting between you and the heads of Egypt, Syria, and Libya in Tobruk, you said there is a plan for integration and unity among the four countries and that Major 'Abd-al-Salam Jallud is preparing this plan. How much has been done in this regard?

[Al-Bashir] Maj. Jallud is still preparing the plan and has not yet submitted his report. [passage omitted]

['Arafah] Mr. Chairman, how long will al-Turabi, Nuqud, and al-Mahdi, heads of the three political parties, remain in custody?

[Al-Bashir] We were planning not to keep any political figure in custody past the end of December last year. However, there were some new developments such as some parties' attempts to take certain action, and other attempts to stage strikes at the end of November. These changed our plans a little because there were people who were involved in these attempts, particularly al-Sadiq al-Mahdi. It became clear that some still had a desire to plan and plot, something which deferred their release for a while. We will, however, release them at a later time.

['Arafah] Has a time been fixed for al-Sadiq al-Mahdi's release?

[Al-Bashir] No time has been fixed. The matter hinges on political developments and his conviction to abandon his antirevolution activity. We will then release him.

[Arafah] Some, particularly in the West, accuse Sudan of violating human rights. What is your opinion?

[Al-Bashir] We are first of all Muslims and are concerned about human rights, which were known by our religion before they were known by others. We fear God in matters related to the people, country, and other things entrusted to us. We will not betray this trust. It was the Koran which, 14 centuries ago, said, "We have honored the sons of Adam." Therefore, even those who are now talking about human rights do not know man or his rights. All these are, of course, some sort of rumors and war against Sudan undertaken by the enemies of Arabism and Islam with the aim of distorting the image of the government in the minds of people. They accuse the government of torturing people at a time when those whom they accused us of torturing, including ministers, were released and are now free. To refute these rumors, we allowed the Western countries' ambassadors to visit the prisons, sit with prisoners, and freely acquaint themselves with their conditions. They asked them questions and came out with the impression that the present prison treatment had not existed before. Prison treatment is now civilized. Nevertheless, the hostile news media continues to disseminate lies and there are some who believe them rather than us. Nothing good about us is published; all lies about us are disseminated, although those whom they claim to have been tortured are out on the street and can be asked about this alleged torture.

RCC Chairman Discusses Modernization of Army

EA1605172990 Khartoum SUNA in English 1018 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Al-Qadiri, 16 May (SUNA)—The chairman of the Revolution Command Council (RCC) [Lt.] Gen. 'Umar al-Bashir has asserted the revolution's efforts to maintain the nationalism and capabilities of the Armed Forces. Gen. al-Bashir, addressing the officers, non-commissioned officers and men of the Fourth Division here yesterday, said the army would be modernized to preserve security in the country. He accused the defunct partisan regime of exploiting people and realizing self-interests.

Gen. al-Bashir reemphasized that the Armed Forces would not hesitate in fighting outlaws until they put down arms.

Meanwhile, Gen. al-Bashir called on the Fourth Division officers, non-commissioned officers and men to "disregard the lies, rumours circulated by the anti-Armed Forces elements." He disclosed that anti-revolution rumours were aimed at weakening the Armed Forces.

Speaking about the recent abortive coup attempt, Gen. al-Bashir confirmed that its organisers were a (minority) whose political affiliations were rejected by the Sudanese people and its Armed Forces.

Ethiopia, Israel Building Dams on Blue Nile

EA1705154590 Khartoum SUNA in English 1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Khartoum, 17 May (SUNA)—Ethiopia has started implementation of four dams on the Blue Nile River, daily AL-INQADH AL-WATANI reported Thursday. The four dams, Karoudim, Mabbil, Mandaya and Hachod dam, have storing capacity of 51 billion cubic metres, the daily said. It added that Israel is providing financial and technical assistance to Ethiopia to help in the quick execution of the four projects.

The execution of the four projects will reduce Sudan's share from the Nile waters to 22.9 billion cubic metres, and the Egyptian share to 59.9 cubic metres [figures as received] annually.

According to the daily, a study by Israel on Egyptian agricultural and water potentialities was presented to the Ethiopian regime. The Israeli study, according to the paper, reveals the only potential agricultural area is in the valleys around the Ethiopian plateau, where a 434,000 hectare project would be implemented. The project will need 6 million cubic metres of water, the paper quoted the study as indicating.

It said the study has also presented an electricity project [words indistinct] electricity the project is to be implemented on the outlet of the lake on Sudan's borders.

Previous reports say Israel has been bargaining to finance the said project against transportation of Ethiopian Jews, Falashas, to Israel, and also providing Ethiopia with weapons in its wars against rebels fighting Addis Ababa.

Special Courts To Be Formed in Darfur Region

AB1705155600 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2145 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir, National Salvation Revolution Command Council (NSRCC) chairman, has issued a decree to form special courts in Darfur region as follows: Special Court Number One, chaired by Staff Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali Mirghani, Major Shamm al-Din Kabbashi, and police Major Musa Muhammad Mahmud; Special Court Number Two, chaired by Lieutenant Colonel al-Amin al-Shaykh al-Phillip, Lieutenant Colonel 'Ali al-Mahi, and police Captain al-Fakki Ahmad Adam.

The courts will have the authority and jurisdiction specified for them under the law on the formation of special courts for 1989. They will specialize in handling corruption cases and any prosecutions the NSRCC and chief justice present before the courts, in accordance

with Clause 3-D of the law on the formation of special courts for 1989. The governor of Darfur region will set the time and place for the convening of the courts.

Rebels Report Arrest of 10 Ummah Party Members

AB1805085290 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in Arabic 1330 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Reliable sources have informed us that the National Islamic Front [NIF] junta has arrested 10 members of the Ummah Party. Those arrested are Dr. al-Bashir 'Umar Muhammad Fadlallah, the former finance minister; Muhammad Hamid al-Muhami; Ahmad Amin, a former adviser; al-Zahawi Ibrahim Malik, deputy commissioner of the national capital in 1989 and former minister of state for energy; Mirghani Da'allah al-Nil; 'Ali (Olonda); Ba Bkr Daqnah, former regional minister of the Eastern Region in 1987; Makki Yusuf Sultan; and Husayn Salamah.

Dr. 'Umar Nur al-Da'im, finance minister in 1988, was also arrested last Thursday, 10 May. After interrogation he was released on Sunday, 13 May.

Meanwhile, the sources have revealed that the NIF junta has sealed with heaps of sand all the roads leading to the house where al-Sadiq al-Mahdi is being detained. Security around the house has been tightened and the number of NIF security personnel around the house has increased to 35.

Tunisia

Reportage on President Ben Ali's U.S. Visit

Departs Tunis

LD1405125490 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1200 GMT 14 May 90

[Excerpts] President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali left Tunis this afternoon for the United States on a state visit at the invitation of U.S. President George Bush.

This visit will give fresh impetus to U.S. economic cooperation, the steadiness and continuity of which is appreciated in Tunisia. And Tunisia, which has always been known for its distinguished and transparent diplomacy based on firm principles and ongoing priority to dialogue and consultation, will reiterate, on this occasion, its proposals concerning indebtedness that has taken disturbing dimensions and led to thorny problems, and also concerning the Middle East conflict and the situation of the city of Jerusalem—given the continuous support given by Tunisia to the Palestinian cause without any ulterior motive, and its playing host on its territory for the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue.

The visit of the head of the state will be also an occasion to learn about the peace efforts made by the United States in the Middle East, with the hope that Washington

will be putting all its weight in the balance by making Israel accept the peace option, because the Arab-Palestinian peace desire is now beyond any doubt, and the Arabs have unanimously blessed the peace strategy adopted by the PLO from the Fes summit to the Casablanca summit.

President Ben Ali's visit to the United States will also be an opportunity for an exchange of views over the situation in southern Africa, the changes in East Europe, and other issues of interest to the two sides. [passage omitted]

Before leaving Tunis, President Ben Ali received from Prime Minister Hamed Karoui a report on the activity of the government and its program of action for the coming days.

The president was also briefed about the activity of the Democratic Constitutional Rally at domestic and foreign levels when he received Abderrahim Zouari, secretary general of the rally, who said that the chairman had decided to invite the Central Committee to convene on 20 and 21 May 1990.

Meets U.S. Senators

LD1705195290 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic 1600 GMT 17 May 90

[Excerpts] The third and final day of President Ben Ali's visit to the United States was today marked by his meetings with Arab and African diplomats, a number of U.S. businessmen, the director of the International Monetary Fund, and the chairman of the World Bank. President Ben Ali yesterday had talks with the treasury secretary, the official in charge of the International Development Agency, two leaders of the senate, and members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee. For further details, we have on the line our special envoy to Washington, Belahcen Benarfa:

[Benarfa] Dear brothers, I am sending you this despatch from the studios of Voice of America in Washington. At 2000 tonight, Washington time, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali's three-day state visit to the United States will have ended. The visit, which came at the invitation of President George Bush, was marked by numerous and diverse activities centered essentially on a series of contacts and talks which President Ben Ali held with his U.S. interlocutors at the government level, foremost President Bush, and at the level of the congress, in addition to senior officials in financial institutions such as the IMF and the World Bank.

The conclusion to be drawn from this visit is that President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali insists that cooperation be based on honesty and mutual understanding. In his talks with his U.S. interlocutors, President Ben Ali also strongly defended the Palestinian cause, for it is a just cause which must be resolved. At the Congress building, President Ben Ali met yesterday with the members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee and expressed his satisfaction with the strength of Tunisia-U.S. relations and their development. He also pointed

out that the change that Tunisia has been witnessing since 7 November had given these relations a new dimension.

Afterwards, several members of the Senate Foreign Affairs Committee asked the head of state a few questions on the economic situation in the country, the Arab Maghreb, and the Palestinian issue. President Ben Ali told his interlocutors that Tunisia had two years of drought which badly affected the agricultural production and that the improvement registered this year did not encompass all the regions, particularly those producing grain. He also mentioned the floods which caused major losses. This emphasizes the need for continued U.S. aid in order to support the national efforts in the field of economic reforms and ensure more efficiency.

In reply to a question on indebtedness, President Ben Ali indicated that Tunisia, which is concerned about its credibility, honors its commitments and is proposing several formulas to rethink the use of this loan to help it meet its needs and the requisites of the development efforts.

With regard to the Arab Maghreb Union, President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali said that the Arab Maghreb Union is the expression of the collective will of the member-states to entrench the historical, civilizational, and fateful ties existing between them. It is also in response to the aspirations of their peoples for integration, the consolidation of ties with all the friendly peoples and international organizations, and the strengthening of international cooperation and peace.

Concerning the Palestinian issue, his excellency the president indicated that it had remained frozen because of Israel's intransigence and its rejection of all the resolutions and even the efforts made by the United

States. He added that the Palestinian leadership had taken many bold initiatives which the other party responded to only with rejection. He went on to say that the United States could play a major role in putting pressure on Israel in order to reach a just and lasting settlement. The head of state also said that the choice of Tunisia as the seat for the Palestinian-U.S. dialogue is a recognition which is a move in that direction, and which made everybody responsible for helping the dialogue achieve its natural objective, by rejecting the great injustice to which the Palestinian people, its land, its capital, and its sacred places are subjected. This would also spare the Middle East the dire consequences of extremism and ossified attitudes. President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali also pointed out that it was high time, in this era of changes, that the Palestinian people, like the other peoples of the region, enjoyed freedom and dignity.

The activities of the head of state were marked yesterday by his meeting with members of the Tunisian community in the United States. [passage omitted]

As part of today's agenda the head of state is due to meet with the Arab and African diplomats, journalists and businessmen. His excellency the president will also receive Mr. Dan Quayle, the U.S. vice president, at his residence, and then the director general of the IMF and the chairman of the World Bank.

Leaves Washington

*LD1805071890 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
0500 GMT 18 May 90*

[Excerpt] The official visit paid by President Zine El Abidine Ben Ali to the United States has been concluded. The president left Washington at 0200 today, Tunis time. [passage omitted]

PDRY**Al-Bid on Unification Defense, Security***EA1705113690 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 15 May 90*

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, has stressed that the Yemeni Republic would not resemble the existing forms in the south and the north. On the contrary, it will assume a new format as the Yemeni state.

He said the task to achieve this demanded every effort. Neither the YSP nor the Yemen Arab Republic's General People's Congress can perform it single-handedly. On the contrary, what is needed is the participation of all national progressive forces if the task is to be carried out. He said this during a meeting this evening with the leaders and cadres of the Ministry of State Security at the hall of the late 'Abdallah ba Dhib.

He said that Yemen was currently undergoing important developments and [word indistinct] which will certainly bring about a heightened consciousness of Yemen's recent history, thus enabling Yemen to enter a new stage of civilization in its history. He stated that the defense and security situation in the unity state, particularly in the capitals, Sanaa and Aden, had been agreed upon. He said final arrangements were currently being made to deploy the cadres to be transferred to the capital of the unity state and (?vice versa). In this respect, the secretary general said the unity state would mobilize all Yemeni resources toward strengthening the internal front for a prosperous and happy Yemen of the future.

The brother secretary general said the unity state would act to strengthen security and stability and to bring about cooperation between the peoples of the region as a contribution toward strengthening Arab solidarity against the provocations to which our Arab nation is being subjected. He reiterated our country's support for the Palestinian cause and the right of the Palestinians to determine their own future and establish their own independent state.

He described the nature of security work and the new tasks that the security organization will carry out under the unity state. He said it would be the duty of the security cadres to defend Yemeni unity and to secure the achievements made under the glorious September and October revolutions. He went on to say: We are in need of loyal individuals who understand the tasks they face and the aims they aspire to achieve, who are insulated from acts of revenge and tension, and who will work hand in hand with national progressive forces so as to bring into being comprehensive stability in Yemen.

The brother secretary general said he is totally satisfied with the results arrived at by the meetings of the Yemeni

leaderships—meetings which were crowned with success. He said a series of laws and arrangements had been approved to pave the way towards declaring the Yemeni unity state.

Brother Sa'id Salih, member of the Political Bureau and minister of state security, then confirmed that the state security personnel would be in the vanguard of those struggling to establish the Yemeni state and would act to strengthen and entrench security and stability under the unity state. They would also participate in building the new Yemen.

The meeting was attended by Brother Muhammad Haydarah Masdus, Political Bureau and Central Committee member, and Hassan Husayn Ali, Central Committee member and deputy state security minister.

Transitional Period 'Too Brief'*EA1705153590 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
1900 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid, secretary general of the Yemeni Socialist Party [YSP] Central Committee, has said that the historic Aden agreement has removed the unity issue from the context of tactics and maneuvers and placed it in the arena of practical and palpable action. He said the development of unification action under the new circumstances was related to the rectification of mistaken concepts which had adversely affected the stage preceding the 30 November 1989 agreement.

Brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said in an interview yesterday for the weekly AL-MUTAQBAL, published in Sanaa, that the six-month period allocated by the unity state's draft constitution was too brief to allow the country to be prepared for the forthcoming elections for the two councils of deputies. In particular, the future state would be passing through a delicate stage requiring the perfection of many arrangements to entrench its foundations, season its rafters, and render it immune to any attempts to destroy it, he said. The transitional period agreed on is the same as the period remaining covering the legality of the work of the Yemen Arab Republic's Consultative Council and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen's Supreme People's Council, he said.

Replying to a question on the philosophical and practical revision exercise being conducted by the YSP in the framework of political reform, brother 'Ali Salim al-Bid said individuals, parties, and leaderships had for some time been revising many things and were examining many submissions. He said the YSP had proceeded courageously to make a philosophical and practical revision of all party work and of its philosophical and executive options in the light of a useful study of local and international conditions.

SPC Issues Communique

EA1705111390 Aden Domestic Service in Arabic
2030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] At noon today, the Supreme People's Council [SPC] wound up its 13th regular session under the chairmanship of Brother Haydar Abu-Bakr al-'Attas, member of the Political Bureau and chairman of the SPC Presidium. At the end of its session, the council issued a press communique stating that the SPC's 13th session had been convened in the fervid spirit of the unity to which all sections of our Yemeni people are aspiring, awaiting the dawn of the declaration of the coming into being of the Yemeni republic, thus restoring the unity of the homeland.

The communique said that during the session, a number of issues had been discussed relating to our people's future, assuring their future in accordance with the comprehensive political and economic reform program. The session had analyzed in depth all the issues requiring rectification which had arisen in the past and had affected economic and social development.

The communique stated that, having wound up its 13th session, the SPC would soon hold the Yemeni unity session in order to approve the draft constitution of the unity state, make preparations for the establishment of the Yemeni republic, and call on the Yemeni people to prepare for this historic day.

The council issued a number of important decrees and laws relating to the comprehensive political and economic reform program. The council approved the draft law on the free market zone in the Aden area, stressing the great importance of Aden in terms of its geographic and strategic location, its suitability for trade, industry, and the provision of services, all because of its important position in relation to international maritime navigation.

The council approved the draft law on tourism, stressing the need to provide Yemeni, Arab, and foreign investors with facilities and raise the standard of services for tourists with the aim of developing individual and group tourism.

As regards the medical and pharmaceutical professions, the council approved the draft law governing the practice of these professions with the aim of developing health care for the citizens.

The council also approved the abrogation of Law Number 38 of 1976 regarding the dealing in, selling, and buying of kat [catha edulis] on weekdays, and Law Number 15 of 1981 limiting proliferation of kat cultivation. The council approved that action be taken to standardize the taxes imposed on kat in conformity with those imposed in the north of the homeland.

As regards the Draft Land Tenure Law, the council entered into a detailed debate and decided to rectify all the mistakes that had been made in the course of implementing the Agricultural Reform Law Number 27 of 1970, this being with the aim of strengthening

national unity, the stability of the citizens, and that of agricultural lands in the interests of the homeland.

The council stressed that the issue would be dealt with comprehensively and completely openly, whereby the beneficiaries would be guaranteed stability by law under the agricultural reform. At the same time, the losses suffered by landowners in contravention of the law would be made good. The council defined a number of principles to be applied to the rectification of the losses. These will include that of settling land disputes by mutual consent among the farmers [fallahin] themselves and the principle of just compensation.

In the course of discussing the draft home ownership law with the aim of assuring the stability of the citizens and that of those profiting from [word indistinct] housing and that of rents, the council stressed that the mistakes which had adversely affected the citizens by virtue of the incorrect application of the law in terms of privately-owned rented homes would be rectified. The council approved the principle of compensation [word indistinct] the restoration of the home, thus to guarantee the housing of the citizen and his stability.

The council approved the regulations issued by the Presidium since the last session.

The council greeted the fighters of the liberation war and lauded the important achievements made by the founding conference of the liberation war fighters' organization and the election of a national council for the organization, stressing that the organization's solidarity was characterized by the rapid approach of the announcement of unity day. The council called for participation in its progress. The council called for the formation of a single national organization to embrace all those who fought the imamate, British colonialism, and their agents.

United Arab Emirates

Iranian Islamic Guidance Minister Arrives

JN1705160290 Manama WAKH in English 1523 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Abu Dhabi, May 17 (GNA) Iranian Culture and Islamic Guidance Minister Dr. Mohammad Khatami arrived today for a three-day official visit to the UAE [United Arab Emirates]. He was met at the airport by UAE Information and Culture Minister Shaykh Ahmad Bin-Hamad and other ministry officials. He said the visit would help enhance information and cultural cooperation between the UAE and Iran.

Yemen Arab Republic

United Yemen To Be Proclaimed 25 May

JN1705183390 Kuwait AL-SIYASAH in Arabic
16 May 90 pp 1, 24

[By Yusuf 'Alawinah]

[Text] Yemen has finally decided to proclaim its unity on 25 May at a mammoth Arab celebration to be held in Sanaa, capital of united Yemen, in the presence of some Arab leaders and representatives of Arab kings, amirs, and presidents.

High-level sources have informed AL-SIYASAH that Kuwait will send a high-level delegation to the celebrations, and that the Yemeni celebrations will be held on the heels of the Arab foreign ministers' meetings scheduled to be held in Baghdad to prepare for the 28 May extraordinary Arab summit.

The two Yemeni states to be merged into a single state have chosen to proclaim their unity before the Arab summit so that the Yemens can participate in summit deliberations through a single united Yemeni delegation to be led by President 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih. This would reduce to 21 the number of Arab states expected to attend the Baghdad summit.

Arab sources told AL-SIYASAH that King Husayn of Jordan, President Husni Mubarak, and President Saddam Husayn—President Salih's partners in the Arab Cooperation Council—will attend the Yemeni unity celebrations. Yemeni envoys will leave for Arab capitals within the coming few days to extend invitations to Arab leaders to attend these celebrations.

Al-'Iryani Makes Pledge to Multiparty Democracy

*PM1705153290 London ITV Television Network
in English 1800 GMT 12 May 90*

[Interview with Minister of Foreign Affairs 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani by Channel 4 reporter Michael Nicholson on "The World This Week"; place, date not given—recorded]

[Text] [Nicholson] So, given its new military, economic, and political strength, where will the new country look for allies? I put it to the principal architect of unity, Foreign Minister 'Abd-al-Karim al-'Iryani.

[Al-'Iryani] We are very fortunate that Yemen is taking this historic step toward unity at a time when polarization in the world is more or less fully diminished or in

the way of being nonexistent. And therefore the worries that could have existed in the minds of any, let's say, Western politician or leader is: Which way would this state go—East or West? Who will be able to attract it to its own polar system? I think we are lucky that this situation does not exist today.

[Nicholson] But what's ahead? What kind of government and what kind of governors for the new Yemen?

[Al-'Iryani] I would assure you this will be a full-fledged multiparty democracy with a parliamentary system, freely elected parliament, free nomination for any person in the country; and every Yemeni citizen has the right to form a political organization of whatever tribe or ideology he wishes—as long as he adheres to the Constitution, naturally.

[Nicholson] With respect, Mr. Al-'Iryani, at the birth of every new nation politicians of your status make exactly those promises.

[Al-'Iryani] Ah, now, let's bet—the only thing I can do with you: I bet you 10 years from now you will see a full-fledged parliamentary democracy, and let's hope we will live together until either I pay you a dollar or you pay me a pound.

Sudanese Envoy Arrives With Message for Salih

*JN1805135090 Sanaa Domestic Service in Arabic
1200 GMT 18 May 90*

[Text] Brother Colonel Salah-al-Din Muhammad Karrar, member of the National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] in Sudan, arrived in Sanaa today. He will convey a message to brother leader Secretary General Colonel 'Ali 'Abdallah Salih from his brother NSRCC Chairman Lieutenant General 'Umar Hasan Ahmad al-Bashir. Col. Salah-al-Din Karrar said in a statement to SABA NEWS AGENCY that the message deals with Arab and international affairs as well as bilateral relations.

On hand to receive him were brother (?Muslih al-Mutawakkil), member of the Consultative Council and General Committee and head of the Department for Political Affairs and Foreign Relations in the [word indistinct]; a presidential protocol representative, and brother Taha Makkawi, Sudanese ambassador in Sanaa.

UK Citizen Dies in 'Unclear Circumstances'

JN1705181590 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1730 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Baghdad, 17 May (INA)—A responsible source at the Interior Ministry has stated the following:

Engineer Joshua Morgan Klass [name as received], a British national, from the Coventry-based British Machinery Krasn Johnson Company [name as received], died under unclear circumstances. He arrived in Baghdad on 2 May 1990 with two engineers from the abovementioned company in order to install machines imported under contract with one of the Industry Ministry's establishments.

He was found dead by one of his colleagues in his room at the Al-Sadir Novtel hotel [name as received] on the morning of 16 May 1990. Police were notified by the hotel management.

The British Embassy in Baghdad was also informed of the death of that person. Competent Iraqi judicial authorities continue to investigate the case with extreme interest to ascertain the cause of death.

At the suggestion of the Iraqi Foreign Ministry to the British Embassy in Baghdad to send representatives to attend the autopsy of the body, the Embassy has charged a British specialist physician working at Ibn-al-Bitar Hospital with examining the body of the engineer, who will work with an Iraqi forensic team to determine the death cause. The results will be made known as soon as investigations are completed.

Interview: Ramadan on 'Planned Israeli Attack'

JN1705152390 Cairo AL-AHALI in Arabic
16 May 90 p 13

[Interview with Taha Yasin Ramadan, first deputy prime minister and Revolution Command Council member, by Aminah al-Naqqash in Baghdad—date not given]

[Text] I said to Taha Yasin Ramadan:

[Al-Naqqash] What, in your opinion, lies behind the U.S.-Zionist-British anti-Iraq campaign?

[Ramadan] This imperialist onslaught is part of a plot against Iraq and the Arab nation. It began in earnest on 8 August 1988, when it became clear that Iraq had come out on top in the Gulf war. The imperialist circles had not bargained on Iraq's success. They did not want the war scenario to turn out the way it did. They had hoped that Iran would end up being in control of Iraqi territory, just as Israel's wars with the Arabs had ended. They would have liked Iran to capture Iraqi territory the way Israel conquered other Arab lands, to humiliate the Arab nation.

While U.S. subsidies flow steadily into Israel, the Arabs are asking the Americans to intercede with Israel not to commit aggression against us. Isn't it a disgrace? How can Washington be allied with Israel and yet be a friend

of the Arabs at the same time—a friend whose protection we seek and in whose banks we deposit our money, and which then provides us with loans from the interest accrued on the principal? The United States and its allies want to perpetuate this unprecedented state of affairs. They will not hear of any Arab standing up for his rights if he is being subjected to aggression.

Having been caught unaware by Iraq's victory in the war, the imperialist forces realized that Iraq's success would have a ripple effect throughout the Arab world. In order to prevent this, they set about plotting to disparage Iraq's victory, and so began warning Gulf states against Iraq's power. They held a conference in France for the Kurds who had contacts with the Iranian Army and kept Iraqi Kurds from participating in it. Then came the issue of the Iranian-born spy Bazoft, who had British papers and whose spying activities were proven. It was Bazoft who facilitated for Israel the bombing of the PLO headquarters in Tunis. He was arrested in the neighborhood where the PLO headquarters were situated and which were bombed a few days after he was freed. We were then faced with the question of the capacitors and the rocket tubing—all meant to show that Iraq does not care about human rights, seeks to develop banned weaponry, and that it sponsors terrorism—so that when Israel mounted an aggression against Iraq, it would seem as though it had carried out the will of the international community. The script would then call for the United States to condemn the Israeli aggression, just as when Israel bombed Iraq's nuclear reactor in 1981, when in fact Washington will have given Israel the green light beforehand.

[Al-Naqqash] Are you drawing your own conclusions, or have you information about an imminent Israeli attack against Iraq?

[Ramadan] As politicians, we are entitled to analyze and plan. But our conclusions were not reached only as a result of analysis; we received tips that the attack was imminent, and so had to alert the Arab nation and tell the enemy that we are watching and will retaliate if the Israelis make any move.

[Al-Naqqash] Do you expect a strike similar to the 1981 raid against Iraq's nuclear reactor?

[Ramadan] Indeed, we expect an even more powerful strike. It might have been postponed after the planned Israeli attack came to light. The intent to carry out an attack remains, however.

[Al-Naqqash] If this is the case, there are some people who question the usefulness of holding this big popular conference for solidarity with Iraq. They have some doubts regarding its role in confronting the impending danger.

[Ramadan] We are confident that the vigilance of our Arab people, as well as their strong convictions concerning their goals, are capable of responding to any aggression that might pose a threat to any of their countries. The Arab nation's capabilities cannot be

underestimated, particularly if they were to be coordinated. History shows us what the International Confederation of Arab Trade Unions did to U.S. interests when a certain Arab country was exposed to aggression. History also tells us what all expatriate Arab organizations and associations did to these interests. The popular conference was a good opportunity to give the Arab people an idea of the magnitude of threats endangering them. The convening of this conference also served as a catalyst to motivate the Arab people to act through their mass organizations, leaderships, parties, unions, and associations to form the basis, supply the ammunition, and provide the protection needed by the official political leaderships so that they may perform their duty in the face of these imminent dangers, which pose threats to the entire nation.

[Al-Naqqash] What steps has the Iraqi Government taken to rebuild the internal front to face these threats?

[Ramadan] We had made serious efforts to secure all the requirements for confrontation in all walks of life before we announced that we were aware of the aggression scheme. The statement by President Saddam Husayn to the effect that if Israel throws the smallest bomb on us, we would not stop the fighting before half of Israel is set on fire, is not an expression of an emotional slogan. This statement reflects an achievable objective. I do not want to delve into details, however, the required capabilities have been secured for such battles.

[Al-Naqqash] Iraqi officials are talking of the need to awaken the Arab masses and to see them take part in the decisionmaking process. How is this to be achieved?

[Ramadan] We attach a great deal of importance to the issue pertaining to the mobilization of the Arab masses. This is the prime task to be addressed at this phase—not the defense of Iraq, since Iraq has defended itself for eight years. This mobilization of the Arab masses is needed to awaken their resolve, so that they can defend themselves on all fronts, particularly after the humiliation which has been plaguing the nation over the past two decades.

The convening of the Arab popular conference in Baghdad was an occasion to consolidate this concept in peoples' minds. All trends in the Arab homeland called for convening this conference to support the mobilization against the Zionist-imperialist aggression, so that all inter-Arab differences may be seen as secondary issues, and, consequently, to move from a defensive posture to an offensive one in the face of the enemy which strives to aggravate our fragmentation. All partisan and trade union leaders who attended this conference must go back to their countries and work to inform their masses of hard facts and information concerning the enemies' scheme. The work of this conference must not end with the conclusion of its sessions. No, the conference must serve as a catalyst for continuous popular Arab action.

[Al-Naqqash] What stage has been reached in the efforts of the Iraqi leadership to restore a multiparty system?

[Ramadan] The multiparty system principle has been approved. The actual implementation of this principle will begin once the new constitution is endorsed. This constitution is currently a topic for legal debate. Once this debate is finished, the constitution will be referred to the National Assembly. Afterward, the constitution will be put to the people in a general referendum. All of these steps, including those pertaining to the right to issue newspapers, will be taken this year.

[Al-Naqqash] What are the obstacles preventing the convening of the Arab summit in Baghdad?

[Ramadan] Right now, there are no obstacles preventing the convening of the summit, which will be held this month.

[Al-Naqqash] What are the topics which you believe should form the agenda of the summit?

[Ramadan] The central task concerns the challenges posed to Arabs, the escalating threats against Iraq, the nation's interests, and the Palestinian intifadah. We need to consider these issues seriously and thoroughly, and to secure the requirements needed for confronting and overcoming this onslaught. Besides, we also need to ensure that Iraq will be able to confront these threats. All this is linked to the continuation and escalation of the Palestinian intifadah. If the enemies were to manage to quash the intifadah, this would result in a debacle similar to the 1948 catastrophe. There are attempts at imposing a news blackout on the intifadah to pave the way for destroying it.

[Al-Naqqash] What will Iraq ask Arab governments to do when the summit is held?

[Ramadan] We will not ask for anything. Every Arab government is supposed to know its role. However, if circumstances required Iraq to ask for anything, I believe the results anticipated from the Arab role, in this case, would not be achieved. At the very least, each party should know its role initially. As for what is mandated by any need, this will be left to the circumstances and resources of every state. What is expected to be discussed are ways of providing the tools needed for the Iraqi position and the Palestinian intifadah to continue, because this issue is of paramount importance and will reflect positively in other Arab arenas.

[Al-Naqqash] In this context, don't you think that resolving Syrian-Iraqi differences will support the Arab force?

[Ramadan] As a matter of fact, I completely disagree with you in describing the current state of affairs between Syria and Iraq in terms of differences. How can I describe Hafiz al-Asad's alliance with the Iranian regime during eight years of war as a difference of opinion? It is far more than that. Despite diverse assessments of the Syrian role, we have not closed the door to normal relations with Syria. We will address a message with a special envoy to Hafiz al-Asad, in the same way as with any other Arab ruler, to invite him to attend the

Arab summit. Differences between any two Arab countries should not be an obstacle to an Arab meeting for dialogue on basic Arab issues. Whoever says that differences present an obstacle to the meeting is giving weak excuses in order to weasel out of any role concerning these basic issues. At any rate, I hope that this situation will come to an end soon.

[Al-Naqqash] Some observers are surprised by Iraqi support for General Michel 'Awn in Lebanon, notwithstanding accusations that he is collaborating with Israel!

[Ramadan] This support has now come to a halt in view of the complications that overtook the Lebanese arena. In principle, however, we support any organization, commission, party, or citizen advocating the unity of Lebanon and calling for evacuation of the foreign forces from Lebanon, and we will make available to these all means of support. Furthermore, when 'Awn raised the slogan of Lebanon's unity and evacuation of all non-Lebanese forces—be they Syrian, Israeli, or Iranian—we supported this slogan, and said to Hafiz al-Asad: If you want to improve relations with us, then leave Lebanon; because we reject the principle of using force among the Arabs. If anyone who is under siege and in need of protection resorts to Israel or to any foreign side, then we have to provide him with another alternative for cooperation. However, if it is proven that this individual has linked his future with the enemy, then let him go to hell.

[Al-Naqqash] But the slogan of the evacuation of foreign forces from Lebanon always ends with Israel remaining there!

[Ramadan] Does Syria's remaining in Lebanon mean Israel's leaving it? Is it not logical to say that Syria's remaining in Lebanon is a justification for Israel's remaining there?

[Al-Naqqash] Isn't it time that Iraq call for revitalizing the front of Arab steadfastness and opposition to face the U.S. and Israeli threats to the countries of the region?

[Ramadan] We believe our real front is the Arab people in their entirety. We will do our best to rally Arab forces around each other, even if this takes place at a very minimal level, and to make the Arabs abandon, as much as possible, the apparent polarization. This does not mean, however, that special relationships among certain countries cannot exist. We support comprehensive cooperation, even if this cooperation is of varying degrees.

[Al-Naqqash] Do you think that the Arab groupings, the Arab Cooperation Council, is a substitute move for this call?

[Ramadan] These Arab groupings are a means of dealing with international developments, but they are not a substitute for the main course, which is cooperation and agreement among all Arabs.

Thus far we have not reached a practical solution with Turkey [regarding water rights to the Euphrates], but we have instituted many channels of dialogue. It was agreed that the irrigation ministers of Iraq, Syria, and Turkey

meet as a committee in Turkey next month to discuss practical details for solving this issue, which, if left unresolved, will cause us concern over the future of Turkish-Arab relations. We do not want more than what is provided for by international norms and conventions, which define the rights of countries sharing the waters of the same river.

[Al-Naqqash] What about the Iran-Iraq negotiations?

[Ramadan] President Saddam Husayn sent a written message to Khamene'i and Rafsanjani calling for direct meetings on the summit level, because this is the correct method to solve the current problems. The two countries know their problems and interests better than anybody else. They agreed on this meeting in principle, provided that the venue is fixed later and the meeting is preceded by meetings of representatives from the two countries. We are now considering asking them about the tasks of the representatives and the venue, and will send them a positive response, because direct dialogue will realize faster results than the international organizations, although it is not a substitute for these bodies.

[Al-Naqqash] Official circles in Iraq are talking about new measures to attain self-sufficiency in wheat. What are the details of these measures?

[Ramadan] We have adopted a number of measures to encourage the peasants to grow grain, which is a basic commodity playing a role in undermining the independence of some states. This will be done by providing special requirements for this type of agricultural product. We have discovered that other agricultural products give the peasants more revenue than grain, so we increased the subsidies that we pay to the peasants who grow wheat by 80 percent, and maintained the sale prices for citizens as they are. This measure costs us 1 billion dinars annually. The cost of the wheat that we received from the Iraqi peasant is now three times as much as the price we pay to America for imported wheat. However, we believe that we are ultimately the winners, because this large amount of money is a cheap price for our economic independence. While this method benefits the peasants and enriches the Iraqi people, the dollars that we pay to the United States to purchase wheat will be transformed into nuclear weapons for Israel. Now we have realized self-sufficiency in barley, and we have more than we need. The wheat crop this year is greater than last year's. During the next three years, which is the maximum limit, we will be able to supply all the wheat we need after preparing all the arable land and providing suitable irrigation networks.

[Al-Naqqash] How do you view the future of the Egyptian workers in Iraq? What happened in the matter of paying the workers the remainder of the money due them?

[Ramadan] On this occasion, I regret to say that some Egyptian papers paint a tendentious picture of the Egyptian workers in Iraq. Even if some mistakes were made here or there, these things happen among members of the same family. They do not mean that a man should

disown his brother. Those closest to us in Iraq are the Egyptian citizens, and they will remain so, because that is how we understand pan-Arabism. When our financial conditions improve in the next phase and Iraqi development reaches its goal, the Egyptian workers will find a wider scope for working in Iraq. As for their wages, they will be paid in due time. We have doubled the amounts paid from the money that has accumulated in the past.

'Aziz Meets U.S. National Security Assistant

*JN1705115590 Baghdad Domestic Service in Arabic
1030 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] Tariq 'Aziz, deputy prime minister and foreign minister, today received Richard Haass, special assistant to U.S. President George Bush for national security affairs.

They discussed developments in the region and a number of Arab and international issues of common concern.

The meeting was attended by the undersecretary at the Foreign Ministry and the U.S. ambassador in Baghdad.

British Ambassador Returns to Baghdad 17 May

*JN1805101190 Manama WAKH in Arabic 0915 GMT
18 May 90*

[By Faruq Shukri]

[Text] Baghdad, 18 May (WAKH)—Hockey Walker [name as received], British ambassador to Iraq, returned to Baghdad last night after spending two months in London on the instructions of his government.

A Western diplomatic source described Ambassador Walker's return to Baghdad as a sign of the British Government's desire to resume dialogue with the Iraqi Government to remove some problems obstructing the development of relations.

The British Government summoned Ambassador Walker back to London last March in the wake of the execution of Farzad Bazoft, an Iranian spy carrying a British travel document. Bazoft was executed after being convicted by an Iraqi court.

Shamir Granted 21 More Days To Form Government

*TA1705151690 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1500 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] President Hayim Herzog has granted Yitzhaq Shamir another 21 days to try to form a new government. Our political correspondent Arye Golan reports that, upon emerging from the presidential residence, Yitzhaq Shamir said he hoped to form a government before the end of that period. Although there are problems with the distribution of portfolios and other questions, Shamir said he hoped to overcome them. Mr. Shamir refused to commit himself to presenting a government next week.

Shamir Hopes To Establish Government 'Soon'

*TA1705160890 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew
1455 GMT 17 May 90*

[Interview with Prime Minister Yitzhaq Shamir by Mikha'el Birenhack outside the presidential residence in Jerusalem on 17 May—live]

[Text] [Birenhack] Here are Yitzhaq Shamir's statements. He just received an additional 21 days from the president.

[Shamir] I will not need the entire period. I will conclude the matter before that, but of course more time cannot hurt.

[Voice of Israel correspondent Arye Golan] When do you think you will finish forming the government?

[Shamir] I would not like to specify a date. At any rate, it will be soon.

[Birenhack] Mr. Prime Minister, we are live on IDF Radio. Does the possibility of a unity government still seem viable to you?

[Shamir] At this moment, it is not viable.

[Unidentified correspondent] Despite all the problems you are having with the portfolios? The Foreign Ministry portfolio, which both David Levi and Moshe Arens desire, and the Defense Ministry coveted by Sharon?

[Shamir] You pointed out the problems. There are indeed problems, but not exactly the ones you spelled out. However, I very much hope to overcome them and establish a government in Israel.

[Golan] But you are also facing problems with your coalition partners. There are many partners and they have many demands. Would it not be preferable for you to attempt to set up a unity government? Did you perhaps speak with Mr. Peres on this matter yesterday?

[Shamir] I did not discuss this possibility with Mr. Peres. I do not consider it realistic today, and all my attention is devoted to the establishment of this government, and toward this end I am negotiating with all its potential components.

[Birenhack] Mr. Prime Minister, this afternoon we learned of an additional difficulty placed in your path by the Moledet faction. This faction claims that the gaps in the coalition's basic guidelines are too great.

[Shamir] Well, if Moledet has any comments, it will inform us and we will see.

[Golan] Where have you encountered the most difficulty, Mr. Prime Minister, in the ideological sphere or on the distribution of portfolios?

[Shamir] I would not differentiate between the two things. It is normal for each party to have its aspirations and its pretensions. I have to look at the whole picture.

[Golan] When will this happen? When do you think you will be able to present a government?

[Shamir] I hope it will be soon. I would not like to state any dates.

[Golan] Could it be next week already?

[Shamir] Anything is possible.

[Birenhack] Thank you very much.

Tehiya Will Support, Not Join Shamir Government

*TA1705161990 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1600 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] Tehiya has decided not to join Shamir's government but will support it from outside the government. Later on in the Likud government's term in office, Tehiya will cast its votes in the Knesset on merit, without committing itself to the Likud bloc, Knesset Member Ge'ula Kohen told our party affairs correspondent Shlomo Raz.

According to Kohen, Tehiya made this decision because of the Likud's scornful attitude, its refusal to give it an important ministerial portfolio, and also the refusal to allow Tehiya to be involved in matters pertaining to settlement and security through the establishment of joint teams to deal with these issues.

No further meetings were set at the end of the meeting between the Tehiya representatives and the Likud's negotiating team.

Shamir: No Commitment on Stopping Settlement

*TA1805070790 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 18 May 90 pp 1, 6*

[Report by Shim'on Schiffer]

[Excerpts] The United States is angry about Shamir's intention to establish new settlements in the territories—an objective expressed in the basic guidelines of the government Shamir is trying to establish.

U.S. Ambassador William Brown expressed the United States' concern to Eytan Ben-Tzur, the deputy director general of the Foreign Ministry. [passage omitted]

Sources in the Prime Minister's Office said in reply that Shamir did not commit himself in the past and does not intend to commit himself in the future to anybody—including the U.S. President—on Israel's stopping the establishment of settlements. The sources added that "we take the U.S. position into account, but it would be inconceivable for Israel to make commitments of this sort."

The sources disclosed that, in his most recent discussion with the U.S. President, the prime minister stressed that what is holding up the peace process in the region is not the settlement issue but the Arab countries' refusal to negotiate with Israel.

Editorial: Attacks Part of New Settlement Drive

TA1705142190 Jerusalem AL-FAJR in Arabic
16 May 90 p 1

[Editorial: "The Settlers' Attacks"]

[Text] Yesterday at dawn, groups of Jewish settlers assaulted some workers and employees of our print shop at the intersection of 'Anata and the Shu'fat refugee camp. Other groups of settlers, at the same time, were attacking the properties, homes, and cars of residents in several places without any serious attention from the concerned Israeli authorities.

This attack was neither accidental nor did it take place, for example, in a "confrontation." It occurred within the framework of a hostile settlement drive that has been intensifying recently according to a systematic plan and under cover of the political program announced by the Likud Party as the basis of the government that it is trying to form. This program, which has 32 clauses, contains an official call for the expansion and escalation of settlement in the occupied territories.

This settlement drive, from St. John's Hospice in the Old City of Jerusalem to Joseph's Tomb in Nablus to the heart of Hebron and inside the Gaza Strip, is tied now to direct attacks by settlers, under cover of night, against the residents themselves, without the responsible Israeli authorities doing anything, according to the law at least, to prevent the settlers from being above the law.

This means that Shamir's caretaker government is moving toward imposing new realities on the situation which, naturally, are extremely dangerous. These realities block the road to peace and push the entire region into a dark tunnel whose end is nothing but war.

Palestinian Leaders Present List of Demands

TA1705135290 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT
in Hebrew 17 May 90 p 7

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Excerpt] Yesterday, Palestinian leaders from the territories presented Israel with a list of 17 demands aimed at creating an atmosphere conducive to opening peace talks with Israel.

Yesterday, the demands were raised in a document drafted by representatives of Fatah, the Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine, and the Communist Party. The document was endorsed by national institutions and figures in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank.

As may be recalled, in January 1988 the Palestinians submitted a document that contained 14 conditions for halting the intifadah. The document submitted yesterday stresses that the intifadah will continue, but Israel's acceptance of the demands would create a better atmosphere.

The authors of the document are demanding from Israel the acceptance of the principle of the right of return; the halting of deportations; the release of all intifadah detainees and the closure of detention camps; the withdrawal of the Israel Defense Forces from populated centers in the territories; the canceling of confinement orders on Palestinians; the halt of all collective punishments such as curfews and the closure of areas; the development of agriculture and industry in the territories; the halt to the confiscation of land; the opening of all educational institutes; and the allowing of freedom of expression in conventions and marches.

The document of demands was presented in a hastily arranged news conference in East Jerusalem by Zuhayra Kamal, head of the women's association, who is identified with the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine.

The speakers stressed their opposition to Shamir's peace plan and their support for the Arab summit scheduled to convene in Baghdad, one of the aims of which will be to stop immigration from the USSR. [passage omitted]

Military: Husayn 'Does Mean What He Says'

TA1805053890 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
0405 GMT 18 May 90

[Report by military affairs correspondent Karmela Menashe]

[Text] Iraq is the most extreme country in the pragmatic Arab camp. Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn has not abandoned the idea of revenge for the attack on the Iraqi nuclear reactor. Saddam Husayn's threats, military sources are saying, are being made for deterrent purposes, but he does mean what he says. Iraq has the tools and the intelligence for an attack on Israel. The military sources believe, however, that the Iraqis cannot attack Israel on a day's notice, because they fear the Israeli response.

The Iraqi leader wants to establish a balance of terror, the military sources believe. Iraq is in a race to catch up with Israel and become its technological equal. The

threat posed by Iraq is in the long run, once Saddam Husayn feels he has reached this parity of terror.

According to the sources, Saddam Husayn believes that Israel is preparing world public opinion for an attack against Iraq and that this is what lies behind its attempts to recruit the United States and Britain. The Iraqis believe this is an international plot, conceived and led by Israel. Britain has taken off its kid gloves regarding Iraq, the military sources note, referring to the exposure of the detonators and the parts of the supergun. The military sources are also saying that the Arab world recognizes Iraq's military supremacy and its desire to be a leader of that world. The sources have stressed that efforts are being made toward reconciliation between Iraq and Syria, but there is no rapprochement yet. Iraq continues developing weapons systems, including biological weapons.

The Iraqi Army is currently in the process of releasing some of its one million soldiers and reducing its 50 divisions, 6,000 tanks, 700 fighter planes, 400 helicopters, 500 cannons, and 6,500 armored personnel carriers; the Army's republican guard is made up of several divisions, and its expeditionary force comprises several divisions as well.

The military sources note that they are unaware of Iraqi forces stationed in Jordan, other than the training squadron sent there to drill Jordanian soldiers.

'Authoritative' Sources: Husayn in 'Real Danger'

TA1805092090 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew
18 May 90 p A1

[Report by Re'uven Pedatzur]

[Text] King Husayn's throne is in real danger. His overthrow in the not too distant future and the end of the Hashemite dynasty's rule in Jordan should not be discounted, authoritative sources in Israel believe.

The sources pointed out that this does not mean that Husayn's downfall will necessarily bring about the establishment of a Palestinian state in trans-Jordan, but might lead to a civil war between the Palestinians and the bedouins in the kingdom. It is difficult to forecast the outcome of such a civil war, though, based on the present balance of forces, it can be said that the bedouins are stronger militarily.

Israel is following with concern the possibility of such a development taking place, because it might result in instability not only in Jordan but in the entire region. A civil war in Jordan might bring about the intervention of additional elements, such as Syria, Iraq, and Saudi Arabia. These three countries firmly oppose the establishment of a Palestinian state in Jordan.

King Husayn's distress is mainly due to the dire economic situation in his kingdom. Jordan's foreign currency reserves have dropped to an unprecedented low of

\$40 million, and the regime is incapable of providing its citizens with basic commodities, even foodstuffs.

The elections to the Jordanian Parliament showed that the power of the bedouin tribal leaders has declined, while the political strength of the younger bedouin generation has increased. It can be stated that Husayn is afraid of the representatives of that generation, who now man the Army and the security forces. They do not have the commitment and loyalty to him and his family that characterized their forefathers.

Husayn wholeheartedly believes that Israeli leaders have decided to set up a Palestinian state in Jordan and that they are only waiting for the right timing. The Jordanian monarch does not believe the idea is shared only by a few in the Israeli leadership and is convinced that it is acceptable to all Israeli politicians, both from the Alignment and the Likud.

This fear of future Israeli moves is one of the forces driving the Jordanian monarch closer to Iraqi leader Saddam Husayn. The king believes that ties with Iraq and the military umbrella it provides for his kingdom might foil Israel's plans to convert his country into a Palestinian state.

South African President To Make 'Official Visit'

TA1805082890 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew
18 May 90 p 1

[Report by Daniyel Ben-Simon]

[Text] South African President Frederik W. de Klerk will pay an official visit to Israel. He will come after an official visit to the United States.

The invitation was made possible by far-reaching changes in South Africa in recent months under De Klerk's leadership. The South African Embassy in Israel has been urging Israel to invite De Klerk, but Jerusalem has held back because of its concern over how the United States and Europe would react. Now that the new regime has been accepted in the West, however, the invitation to De Klerk was made possible.

This will be the first visit by a South African president to Israel since President Forster visited in 1976 at the invitation of Prime Minister Yitzhaq Rabin.

New Police Unit Created for Jerusalem Security

TA1705193390 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1900 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Police Commissioner Ya'akov Terner today approved the establishment of a new unit, named Gid'onim, to deal with security problems in Jerusalem. The unit will engage in special intelligence missions, deal with hostile elements, thwart terror activities, and handle disturbances in Jerusalem.

Our correspondent Moshe Nussbaum reports that the unit will consist of 30 policemen who served in elite Israeli Army units. The police antiterror unit and other security branches will also be incorporated into the unit. It will be outfitted with sophisticated equipment and its men will, among other things, drive vehicles bearing Arab license plates.

Our correspondent points out that Commissioner Terner accepted the recommendations of the team headed by Commander Asaf Hefetz, head of the operations department at Israel Police national headquarters, who probed the preparedness and *modus operandi* of the police in Jerusalem in dealing with the intifadah.

Another recommendation apparently to be implemented soon is the setting up of a standby unit for special missions in Jerusalem. The members of this unit would be on standby 24 hours a day to reinforce troops in the field during extraordinary events.

Meeting Discusses Reopening University in Gaza

TA1705144090 Jerusalem AL-QUDS in Arabic
17 May 90 p 1

[Text] Gaza—Brigadier General Arye Ramot, head of the Civil Administration, met with some notables and heads of institutions in the Gaza Strip. Discussion at the meeting centered on the current situation in the Strip and the possibility of reopening the Islamic University in Gaza, which has been closed since 1987.

Ramot also met with a number of clergymen in the Strip and discussed with them the issue of closing the mosques. He explained that the Civil Administration will not hesitate to close mosques that are exploited for nonreligious purposes. He promised to keep soldiers away from mosques to prevent any friction between the soldiers and the worshippers.

Goren on Universities, Family Reunification

TA1705183890 Jerusalem Television Service in Arabic
1600 GMT 17 May 90

[Interview with Shmu'el Goren, coordinator of government activities in the territories, by Yoni Ben-Menahem and Shlomo Ganor—recorded in Hebrew with Arabic subtitles]

[Excerpts] [Ganor] Mr. Goren, let us begin with your decision to reopen the universities in the territories. This decision comes after Israel was accused of pursuing a policy of forced illiteracy. Will the process of reopening the universities now enter a practical phase, or are you still at an evaluatory stage?

[Goren] This decision has nothing to do with a policy of forced illiteracy. We have no such policy. The existence of educational institutions is an established fact, and students who belonged to the closed universities continued their studies and we did not act against them. In other words, we did not take action against studies. We

closed campuses that served as a center for increasing violence, terror, and instigation.

[Ganor] As for the reopening of the universities themselves?

[Goren] This was clearly impossible at the level of violence previously witnessed. We decided to try and reopen one campus, hoping that this would then permit the reopening of additional campuses. I repeat that this will occur in stages, and will be dependent on the observation of very rigorous security conditions. We hope that the reopening of universities will be similar to the reopening of the colleges, which was proven a successful and correct decision.

[Ben-Menahem] Which campus do you intend to open first?

[Goren] We will let the campus dean know beforehand, and I would not like to announce this through the media. As soon as we decide the time is right, we will summon the dean and let him know that he can reopen his campus.

[Ben-Menahem] And when, approximately, do you intend to reopen this campus?

[Goren] We hope this will be soon. [passage omitted]

[Ben-Menahem] Mr. Goren, an additional problem troubling the inhabitants of Judaea and Samaria is the question of illegal residents, as it is termed, in these areas. Harsh international criticism was also voiced regarding this matter. You have recently changed the relevant criteria. Could you perhaps expand on the matter?

[Goren] Yes, that is true. We also were able to move on this after we ascertained the security situation and achieved relative control in the area in the civil domain. For example, we issued residency permits to all the Egyptian women married to Gaza residents. We did not have to do this. We did not have to give them identity cards, but out of humanitarian considerations we did. In Judaea and Samaria, we also tend to be lenient toward women who are married to local residents, and if she is not included in the framework of family reunification, she will be allowed to remain in the area as a visitor. To put it more simply, she will be allowed to stay even after her residency permit expires. There are some regulations that must be met, but she and her children will be allowed to stay in Israel.

[Ben-Menahem] Why was this not implemented before? Why did it take 20 years to change the regulations?

[Goren] Many things develop with time, and this was one of them.

[Ganor] Does this also include the issue of family reunification?

[Goren] That is a different category altogether. These cases, too, are checked on merit. When particular humanitarian reasons are involved, we allow family reunifications.

[Ganor] How many such applications have been approved in the last year?

[Goren] In 20 years, we have approved the applications of over 75,000 people. [passage omitted]

[Ganor] Mr. Goren, the key chapter in the Israeli peace plan deals with elections in the territories. Has your office completed the preparations for holding elections, if and when they are held?

[Goren] We will not have any technical problems. We have already said that if the political echelon decides on elections and it is possible to hold an election, I believe the Civil Administration will be able to do the work from the technical point of view without any problem whatsoever. [passage omitted]

Comptroller's Report on Civil Defense Detailed

TA1505110690 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST
in English 15 May 90 p 8

[Report by Asher Wallfish]

[Excerpt] The preparedness of the home front for war, states of emergency, and for large-scale disasters, leaves much to be desired.

Dangerous substances used in modern industrial processes, or created as by-products and waste in the course of manufacture, have caused a considerable number of large-scale disasters in other countries in recent years. There are a number of areas in Israel with a high concentration of industrial plants handling dangerous substances, the comptroller reported.

The supervision of these dangerous substances, and readiness to cope with the dangers they present, are faulty. A large number of bodies are involved which do not coordinate their operations. Each body covers a narrow segment of the problem. Sometimes bodies duplicate each others' work. Sometimes the supreme authority is unaware of what the various bodies are doing in the sphere of dangerous substances.

The already meagre budgets allocated by each ministry for coping with hazards caused by dangerous substances are often wasted by duplication and lack of coordination. Plants which handle dangerous substances are entangled in the bureaucratic webs of as many as nine separate official supervisory authorities.

Whereas the IDF [Israel Defense Forces] is responsible for all large-scale disasters on the home front in times of war and states of emergency, the coordinating responsibility in peace time is still being finalised. The proposal is to make the Environment Ministry responsible, but the necessary legislation has not yet been completed.

The comptroller drafted a number of specific demands, designed to improve preparedness:

- Experts employed by plants handling dangerous substances to be assigned to crisis duty rosters in advance on a regional basis, and ordered to make themselves available instantly to cope with disasters involving the materials with which they are familiar in the course of their work.
- Regional stores to be set up containing the necessary equipment and chemicals to cope with disasters, and financed by levies on the plants involved.
- Vehicles hauling the most dangerous substances to be escorted at all times by a second vehicle from the despatching plant with a plant expert aboard as well as emergency equipment.
- Designation and construction of ring roads around inhabited areas, to be used obligatorily by vehicles hauling dangerous substances, and enabling easy approach in case of disasters, to cope with the situation and evacuate the victims.
- Instructions for behaviour in case of disasters to residents living close to the relevant plants, with a view to reducing alarm and panic in the event of a disaster taking place.
- Formation of a special disasters unit in the IDF reserves, to be trained and equipped for cases in which the civilian authorities and the police decide to call in the military in peace time because of the scope and nature of the disaster, or which the IDF would anyway be expected to handle in time of war. [passage omitted]

Court: Old City Issue 'Ordinary Civil Dispute'

TA1705114790 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew
1100 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The Jerusalem Magistrate's Court resumed deliberations on the controversial building in the Christian Quarter, and Judge Ya'akov Betzael announced that he would treat the issue as an ordinary civil dispute between the owner of a building and the tenant. He also said that the court sessions will begin only in the second half of October. The status quo will remain in force until then.

Our correspondent Ofra Nehmad reports that the judge made a series of proposals to both sides in the dispute, including one that the Greek Patriarchate pay the Panamanian company to evacuate the building.

U.S., Soviet Stance on Emigration Criticized*JN1705103290 Amman AL-DUSTUR in Arabic
17 May 90 pp 1, 20*

[Editorial: "American Blatancy and Soviet Hypocrisy"]

[Text] The United States, once again, has aborted a draft resolution that has been under discussion at the UN Security Council for a long time, concerning the repercussions of settling the Soviet Jewish emigrants in the occupied Palestinian territory. The U.S. pretext for this is to avoid placing new difficulties before the stumbling Middle East peace process.

Such continued U.S. bias toward Israel is in fact direct encouragement to the extremist leaders of Israel, who have continued unabated the programs of expansion and settlement, to rely on such U.S. political cover, which is in complete harmony with a regrettable Soviet stance. This Soviet stance is based on opening the door wide to emigration on the one hand and on making empty statements to the Arabs on the other.

The immigration issue is a tangible example of the identical interests of the major powers—interests that ignore principles, justice, and rights—particularly as we see the USSR beefing up Israel with manpower while the United States provides it with all the necessary methods to absorb those emigrants who will settle on the land of another people, that is, the Palestinian people.

Instead of calling on the United States and other countries with small populations [to absorb the emigrants], the USSR creates a problem, and then calls on the Security Council resolve it. This makes us wonder bitterly about the seriousness of the Soviet complaint or whether it is a mere pretext to keep the door of Jewish emigration open while public opinion is preoccupied with futile deliberations at the Security Council.

In light of all this, we believe that the Arabs, who will soon hold a summit meeting in Baghdad, should put all their diplomatic and economic weight into this fierce battle in which many international parties are plotting, not only against Palestine and its people, but also against the Arab nation, which is threatened with the establishment of Greater Israel which will be even more aggressive and extremist in its dealing with the neighborly Arab countries.

There is no doubt that if the Arabs employ their potential in this battle correctly they will place every concerned country before its real responsibilities. They will also be able to deal with the Jewish emigration and its expected repercussions more clearly and with greater effectiveness. And this is the first step toward winning this round, which will be waged on the ground, not in the corridors of the UN Security Council.

Sudan's Interior Minister Arrives With Message*JN1705120890 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1100 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] Major General Faysal 'Ali Abu-Salih, Sudanese National Salvation Revolution Command Council [NSRCC] member and interior minister, arrived in Amman via al-Ramtha today on a visit to Jordan during which he will convey to His Majesty King Husayn a message from His Excellency President 'Umar Hasan al-Bashir, chairman of the Sudanese NSRCC.

On arrival at al-Ramtha border post, Major General Abu-Salih told the Jordanian News Agency correspondent that he will advise the Jordanian officials of the developments in Sudan, exchange with them viewpoints on current Arab issues and bilateral friendly relations, and discuss issues advantageous to the Arab nation.

Major General Abu-Salih was received at al-Ramtha by the secretary general of the Royal Court, the governor and police chief of Irbid, the governor of al-Ramtha, and a number of officials.

King, Arab League's Klibi Confer on Arab Summit*JN0905163390 Amman PETRA-JNA in Arabic
1435 GMT 9 May 90*

[Text] Amman, 9 May (PETRA)—His Majesty King Husayn received at the Royal Hashemite Court at noon today Arab League Secretary General Chedli Klibi, who is currently touring a number of Arab capitals. During the meeting, his majesty restated the need for holding an Arab summit at this particular stage when the nation is facing many dangers and challenges.

His majesty said that this summit will take a serious stand on the issue of pan-Arab security and threats to it, especially Jewish emigration, which will result in undesirable consequences to Palestinian territory and which paves the way for Israeli expansion schemes.

His majesty added that the oppressive campaign which fraternal Iraq is currently being subjected to requires an Arab stand to affirm Iraq's right to defend itself and confront any possible aggression on its land, development, or national role.

His Majesty King Husayn said that attendance at this summit is a pan-Arab necessity because of the dangers and threats of the current stage.

The meeting was attended by Crown Prince Hasan the regent; al-Sharif Zayd Bin-Shakir, chief of the Royal Hashemite Court; and Mr. Marwan al-Qasim, deputy prime minister and foreign minister.

Mr. al-Qasim at noon today received Mr. Klibi in his office.

Mr. Klibi concluded his visit to Jordan and left Amman this afternoon.

Parliament To Meet in Extraordinary Session

JN1705084190 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 17 May 90 p 1, 5

[By P.V. Vivekanand]

[Excerpt] Amman—Parliament is expected to be convened for an extraordinary session in the first week of next month, and the government is working at a fast pace to prepare all laws it has promised to present to the legislative body by then, according to a senior government official.

"We are working very hard to have all promised legislation ready to be presented to Parliament," the official said Wednesday [16 May]. "There are extra cabinet meetings and other related work and we are sure that every piece of legislation that the government has promised will be presented in time," added the official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Parliament, which went into summer recess late in March, was expected to be convened in an extraordinary session early this month. The official explained that in addition to preparing legislation the government was also heavily involved in the run-up to an extraordinary Arab summit, scheduled to be held in Baghdad May 28, and therefore it was decided that Parliament could begin the extraordinary session in early June.

Members of the Lower House met early this month and decided that its agenda during the extraordinary session should remain open. It is not clear yet how the parliamentarians hoped to achieve that in light of the constitutional provision that the King himself specifies the agenda for any extraordinary session of Parliament.

The government official disclosed that investigations were continuing into clashes which took place Sunday night at the al-Ramtha border point between security forces and a group of people who wanted to cross into Syria without proper documents. He confirmed that between 20 and 30 people were being held in connection with the incident, and would be indicted with related charges depending on the outcome of inquiries conducted by the prosecutor-general.

The official emphasized that the criminal code of the civil law would govern the case and that "in no event will martial law provisions be applied."

Legislation expected to be submitted to Parliament next month includes substitute laws for the 1935 defence law and martial law provisions, which were frozen early this

year by the government of Mudar Badran. "The only acute [as published] exception where martial law will be applied is the case of Petra Bank," which was taken over by the government using martial law provisions in August last year, the official said. [passage omitted]

Minister Confirms Ban on Male Hairdressers

JN1505105590 Amman JORDAN TIMES in English 15 May 90 p 1

[By Ghadir Tahir]

[Text] Amman—Minister of Interior Salim Masa'idah acknowledged Monday [14 May] that a decision had in fact been taken to ban male hairdressers and that it was a compromise to appease more conservative groups in the country.

"We took this decision because of the general feeling in the country that male hairdressers should not work in women's beauty salons," the minister said in his first public comment on the controversial decision to ban the hairdressers. Ministry of interior officials had previously denied that such a regulation was issued.

Asked whether the decision was prompted by pressure by Islamist groups, Masa'idah said: "The decision was a compromise." He explained that the ban would only apply to new applicants and would not affect those who already have licenses.

Members of the executive committee of the hairdressers' union said that any ban was not acceptable since "it violated the Constitution which stipulates that all citizens are equal."

"The ministry had promised to amend the regulation; so we are surprised by the minister's statement," one hairdresser said Monday [14 May].

Irbid police have already taken steps to enforce the regulation and gave hairdressers one week to get documentation from the ministry proving that the decision only applies to new applicants. A Security source said Monday that their enforcement steps had been stopped. "We have declared up [as published] some of the ambiguity in the regulation, which prompted the Irbid authorities to take these steps," the source said. This could not be confirmed independently.

The decision to ban male hairdressers has sparked heated debate over the legal and constitutional legitimacy of the move. A legal precedent involving a case in Irbid contravenes such a measure. [as published]

Al-Hirawi on Conditions for Attending Summit

PM1805081290 London AL-MAJALLAH in Arabic
22 May 90 pp 18-19

[Interview with President Ilyas al-Hirawi by Muwaffaq Madani Daftardar in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [Daftardar] Your Excellency, Mr. President, are there any developments in the region which could help resolve the situation in Lebanon?

[Al-Hirawi] I told my brothers in the Lebanese Government that there are some very important developments in the region and that the cards are being reshuffled. The rapprochement between Syria and Egypt is very important for the course of events and for the perpetuation of Arab solidarity. Egyptian President Husni Mubarak's visit to Syria is important and will reflect on the Lebanese situation, which is influenced by its Arab environment. We, the Lebanese authorities, proceed from Lebanon's affiliation to its Arab environment, especially in view of present conditions, since the region is experiencing the Soviet Jews' emigration to the occupied Arab territories. [Al-Hirawi ends]

AL-MAJALLAH asked President al-Hirawi about the possibility of the extraordinary Arab summit's being convened and attended by Lebanon. He said: We received an invitation from the Arab League General Secretariat and replied immediately, saying that we do not want to be influenced by the Arab blocs policy, nor do we want to join any of them. We set certain conditions for attending the Arab summit. And we have no objection to its being held in Baghdad or any other Arab capital. We said that the Arab summit's importance lies in the discussion of two issues: the Palestinian issue and developments in it, especially with regard to the Soviet Jews' emigration. The other is the Lebanese question.

The Lebanese president added: "We are anxious that the Lebanese question and the Palestinian issue be included together on the summit's agenda, on the grounds that they are linked and influence one another. [passage omitted]"

Al-Hirawi then explained his viewpoint: We agreed that the Palestinian issue be unanimously given precedence over the Lebanese issue. But I see a link between the two issues, as the issue of Soviet Jews' emigration to the occupied Arab territories will affect the Lebanese situation, because the Soviet Jews could be transferred to the Galilee area adjacent to South Lebanon. Soviet Jews' emigration and settlement will pose threats to Lebanon: Whenever Israel wants to expel Palestinians from the occupied territories it sends them to Lebanon. During former President Sulayman Franjiyah's term of office, a U.S. envoy came to Beirut and proposed to President Franjiyah that he agree to the Lebanese Christians' dignified evacuation, but Franjiyah resolutely refused.

The Lebanese president went on to say: Today the same question is raised in the region. Soviet Jews's emigration to the occupied Arab territories coincides with the emigration

of Lebanese, mainly Christians, who take a lot of money out of Lebanon, thus creating a vacuum in Lebanon.

President al-Hirawi stressed: The new Jewish emigration poses a threat to Lebanon, and I warned about this during my tour of the Tripartite Committee states. I warned that the Soviet Jews' emigration is a real threat to Lebanon, on the grounds that it is the weakest spot in the area. Residents emigrate not only from the eastern area [of Beirut], but from Iqlim al-Tuffah as well. The continuation of the war there prompts residents to depart.

If all this is linked, the Jews' emigration is aimed against Lebanon and its South in terms of settlement. South Lebanon is engrossed in the infighting there, and the Lebanese Army has lost equipment worth \$500 million in the eastern area war.

This is why, during my tour of the Arab Tripartite Committee states, I tried to urge them to provide aid to enable the Lebanese authorities to make their decisions and to enable us to have our own army.

The Lebanese Army must be reorganized and supplied with equipment and ammunition with a view to sending it to the South to coordinate with international forces; impose security in the capital, Beirut; and implement the al-Ta'if agreement.

I told the Arab brothers to accept these conditions, otherwise there is no reason for my attending [the summit]. [passage omitted]

***Awn Interviewed on Referendum, Syrian Position**

JN1605184590 Kuwait AL-QABAS AL-DUWALI
in Arabic 15 May 90 p 4

[Interview with General Michel 'Awn by Nabih al-Barji at B'abdash Palace in Beirut; date not given]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] [al-Barji] Are you now facing a dramatic fragmentation?

['Awn] This is due to the damned agreements, which do not represent a solution. Lebanon is being given opiates so that it can be fragmented. We demand a radical solution of the problem within the social and environmental context.

The proposed solutions beat around the Lebanese problem, but do not solve it.

[Al-Barji] The map of the whole region was not drawn up in a fair manner. It is still governed by the Sykes-Picot agreement. The region still requires a radical solution for Lebanon. This means that you are moving against all the currents that have dominated the century.

['Awn] On the contrary, the United Nations has approved all the solutions. Based on this, nowadays they talk of a Lebanon within its internationally acknowledged borders. I do not understand how internal reform can be discussed before the problem of the various occupations is solved,

since no new political system has any meaning as long as this system is mortgaged to others.

The line of priority is very clear. However, some insist on setting the cart before the horse, and then they ask the horse to drag it. Those people do not want a solution for Lebanon; they want to kill Lebanon.

What is happening is not a Lebanese war. It is taking place to dismember Lebanon and place its fragments and parts on the negotiating table. They want Lebanon to be a reconciliation prize and not a homeland.

I represent the Lebanese reality without claiming to do so. The others represent the weird phenomenon of Lebanon. And everyone knows where those people feed—politically, militarily, and materially.

We hear of all types of solutions: American with Arab and Arab with American. Not once have we heard of a Lebanese solution. Why this insistence on dissolving the Lebanese identity? I say that there is no solution whatsoever, except within the framework of the Lebanese identity, and whatever will be will be.

[Al-Barji] But the person who declared the establishment of the great Lebanese state in 1920 was not a Lebanese general. He was General Gouraud, as you very well know.

[Awn] A French, Turkish, German, Israeli general ... call him what you will. We have never done anything. Everything comes from abroad. We demand a popular Lebanese referendum concerning the solutions. We demand elections. There must be real representatives to discuss these solutions.

There is a problem that must be solved. Is it not natural that those whose problem it is should have their say in its solution? This can only take place through elections. I do not know why the others are so worried about free elections.

If we do not change into an able society after elections under international and Arab supervision, then let solutions be found by others. But why do they want to strip us of our national options? I believe that no force can impose its will on any people whatsoever. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barji] Your latest statements concerning Syria sounded identical to those of President al-Huss' government. Previously, you spoke of structural differences with Syria. Now, you say that there are no basic differences. Is this an interesting turnabout?

[Awn] I do not want my answer to imply anything more or less than I say. I was asked about the issue of settlement in Lebanon, and whether I agreed with them on this issue. I said I did. There are many things on the pan-Arab level that we agree on with Syria. I wonder: When did we move away from the Arab political framework?

Our dispute was over the relations of power which were being built up within the Lebanese society. Our dispute is over the problem of sovereignty and independence. If agreement is reached with Syria concerning the subject

of sovereignty, then any disputes between us will be eliminated. I have always presented the problem of sovereignty, and I still insist on it.

[Al-Barji] The al-Ta'if agreement provides for a Syrian troop withdrawal. Where, then, does the sovereignty problem lie?

[Awn] This agreement changes the entire structure of the state without giving anything in return.

[Al-Barji] Are you talking about reform provisions?

[Awn] The al-Ta'if agreement kept us in place. Do you believe that the mode of governing being witnessed at present, the mode of governing which emanated from this agreement, is the mode desired by the Lebanese people? What has the al-Ta'if agreement done? [passage omitted]

[Al-Barji] You have not used the term "Syrian occupation" as has been your habit.

[Awn] To stop using the term has become natural, since there has been a change in the Syrian position.

[Al-Barji] Has information of this change reached you directly? Or is it the outcome of a review of recent events?

[Awn] I prefer to make no comment on this. God willing, I will tackle the issue on another occasion.

As a matter of fact, many changes have taken place. I cannot speak for others on their positions. Sometimes we are directly informed of the changes. At other times, we know of these changes through a review of positions and in the media. All these are indicators. Nobody can make a 180-degree turnaround. Change begins with small steps which might lead to a solution. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barji] You represent a certain sector that is bound to exhaust itself. Coffers will eventually deplete and you will run out of ammunition.

[Awn] The coffers will deplete, I will run out of ammunition, and they will occupy the B'abda palace. I would then lose the battle. Is there anything else? If such a thing were to happen, the people would be the losers. The whole world is against me. The whole world seeks to foment trouble in Lebanon, and you are urging me to surrender. I will not do that.

[Al-Barji] I am just asking.

[Awn] Questions are not assumptions. You are telling me that the United States and the United Kingdom are against me. Only force can make me surrender, and I will not yield. If I were to die, I would be satisfied in that I will have been courageous enough to disapprove of any solution detrimental to Lebanon's interests. They can launch a military attack on me, make me evacuate B'abda palace, and imprison me. I will stay here until the military battle is lost. The failure to win this battle would be forced on me. This is my way of seeing things. Let them dispatch the Sixth Fleet, Syrian tanks, NATO, or the Warsaw Pact to topple me and make me leave this

place. Your media say that I am facing financial constraints. How can you, press people, publish such things? What is the ideology behind your writings and political analyses? The government has undermined employees' rights, exercised sectarian discrimination, and crossed out the names of Christians from payrolls. Can such steps be taken by a legitimate government? Such steps can only be taken by militias. I never heard anyone tell al-Hirawi that he does not have the right to take these steps. Nobody has asked Dr. Salim al-Huss about his exercise of sectarian discrimination and on the steps that have been taken to harm citizens' rights. You come and ask me about Lebanon. You hold me responsible for the snipers who for over the past 15 years have been financially, logistically, and politically nurtured from outside. [passage omitted]

[Al-Barji] The Lebanese Forces use the term "The Golden Beach republic" to refer to the only port which you use to receive imports.

[Awn] They are free to use whatever terms they like. There is the Awza'i republic, the Khaldah republic, the Sil'ata republic, and the al-Minyah republic. They are all republics. When we made efforts to silence these republics, hell broke loose on us.

[Al-Barji] Do ammunition supplies reach you through the Golden Beach pier?

[Awn] This issue is not for the press to deal with.

[Al-Barji] In the past, you said that you no longer had any places to store your ammunition.

[Awn] We consume some of this ammunition. When the ammunition is expended, we receive new ammunition.

[Al-Barji] Have you received any new ammunition supplies?

[Awn] That is enough. [passage omitted]

Agreement Reached To Consolidate Cease-Fire

NC1705200990 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 1845 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Mediation Committee member Abbot Bulus Nu'man this evening met with Lebanese Forces Chief of Staff Major General Fu'ad Malik. During the meeting, agreement was reached on consolidating the cease-fire. Abbot Nu'man had met earlier with General 'Awn. After the two meetings, Nu'man telephoned Lebanese Forces Commander Dr. Samir Ja'ja' and briefed him on the results of his talks.

Abbot Nu'man this morning visited Bkirki and the Papal Nunciature in Harisa and met with Patriarch Sfayr and Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente.

Within the framework of the efforts to resolve the crisis in the eastern area, the Lebanese Forces commander met today with Maronite Patriarch Mar Nasrallah Butrus Sfayr in the presence of Abbot Nu'man and with Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente. This was preceded by a meeting in al-Kaslik between Dr. Ja'ja' and Abbot Nu'man. Following this meeting, the Lebanese Forces commander praised Abbot Nu'man's resumption of his mediation efforts and hoped that they will be more effective and productive than earlier efforts. He also thanked all those who are making initiatives to end the ordeal in the eastern area, including King Fahd Ibn-'Abd-al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia. He hoped that all the parties concerned will respond favorably to these initiatives so that the situation can be normalized and legitimacy established throughout Lebanese territory as soon as possible.

Tension High in W. Beirut, Southern Suburb

NC1805090290 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon
in Arabic 0845 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Tension is high in West Beirut and some areas in the Southern Suburb following clashes which broke out between Amal and Hizballah gunmen in Wadi Abu-Jamil, Burj al-Murr, and Zuqaq al-Balat last night.

Meanwhile, fighting is currently raging between Amal and Hizballah fighters in Iqlim al-Tuffah. Machine guns and rockets are being used in the clashes.

Pakistani Prime Minister Bhutto Arrives 17 May

JN1705121590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 17 May 89

[Excerpt] At 1130 today, Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, arrived in Damascus on an official and cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his wife led those who received Ms. and Mr. Bhutto [as received]. [passage omitted]

Praises 'Excellent' Relations

JN1705164590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1515 GMT 17 May 90

[Excerpts] At 1130 today Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan, arrived in Damascus on an official, cordial visit to the Syrian Arab Republic. [passage omitted]

Upon arrival, Ms. Bhutto made a statement in which she said: I am glad to be here today. I would like to express our deep thanks for the welcome extended to me and to the members of my delegation. I am looking forward to a useful, brotherly exchange of opinions with President Hafiz al-Asad and Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi on issues of mutual concern, in addition to other regional and international issues.

Ms. Bhutto added: We have been following with great interest the efforts by the Syrian leadership to bring about a just, lasting solution to the Middle East problem, which is being deliberately complicated by Israel through its recalcitrance, especially its current policy of settling more Jewish immigrants in the occupied territories.

Ms. Bhutto went on to say: Pakistan and Syria enjoy excellent bilateral relations. My aim, however, is to discuss ways and means of expanding these relations in all spheres of mutual interest. The Pakistani people, she added, cannot forget the support Syria extended to them regarding all the problems they faced in the past decade. Syria, moreover, has supported Pakistani positions; similarly, Pakistan supports Syria in its just causes. Our relations are built on the basis of principle and support of just causes of liberty.

She added: Since the establishment of our government in 1988, we have exchanged many delegations. We have stood by Syria in its just causes. Our consultations with Syria will deepen and support bilateral relations and cooperation. [passage omitted]

Delegation Talks Open

JN1705190990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1630 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] At 1400 today, Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi received at the Prime Ministry Ms. Benazir Bhutto, prime minister of the Islamic Republic of Pakistan.

The Syrian Arab side, chaired by Prime Minister al-Zu'bi, and the Pakistani side, chaired by Ms. Benazir Bhutto, held official talks.

Prime Minister al-Zu'bi welcomed Ms. Bhutto and the members of the accompanying Pakistani delegation. He underscored the strong, historic friendship between the Syrian Arab people and the Pakistani people, which is based on affection, respect, and understanding. He added that since the time that the late Pakistani President Zulfikar Ali Bhutto assumed office, Syrian-Pakistani relations have been developing toward realization of the mutual prospects of this cooperation. He also stated Syria's desire to develop bilateral relations of cooperation in all spheres.

Ms. Bhutto thanked Prime Minister al-Zu'bi for the warm welcome accorded her and members of her delegation in friendly Syria.

She also thanked President Hafiz al-Asad for his honest, noble stands and his concern with developing the friendship between Syria and Pakistan, and for Syria's support for Pakistan in all circumstances.

Ms. Bhutto stated Pakistan's desire to further deepen and develop cooperation between the two friendly countries in the economic, trade, and technical fields.

Ms. Bhutto also gave a political review of the situation in the Indian subcontinent and Kashmir.

The talks also dealt with the Middle East issue, the Palestine question, and Lebanon. Both sides noted the existing prospects for developing cooperation in various fields as well as and exchanging delegations and visits.

The two sides agreed to hold meetings between the ministers of the Syrian and Pakistani delegations in order to discuss issues related to developing cooperation and issues of mutual concern to the two friendly countries.

Talks were attended on the Syrian side by General Mustafa Talas, deputy commander in chief of the Army and Armed Forces, deputy prime minister, and defense minister; Dr. Salim Yasin, deputy prime minister for economic affairs; Faruq al-Shar', foreign minister; Yusuf Ahmad, transportation minister; Dr. Najah al-'Attar, culture minister; Dr. Sabah Baqjaji, minister of state for planning affairs; Nasir Qaddur, minister of state for foreign affairs; Khalid al-Mahayini, finance minister; and a number of officials.

The Pakistani side to the talks included Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, foreign minister; Ghulam Sarwar Cheema, minister of state for defense; Hadi Zafan Ali Khan Leghari, communications and railways minister [title as received]; Nasir Ahmad Bin Shaykh, adviser to the prime minister on overseas affairs [title as received]; Tanvir Ahmad Khan, assistant to the foreign minister [title as received]; Syed Azmat Hassan, Pakistani ambassador in Damascus, and a number of Pakistani officials.

Discusses Middle East, South Asia

JN1705183990 Damascus SANA in Arabic 1640 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Damascus, 17 May (SANA)—President Hafiz al-Asad received Pakistani Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto at 1830 today.

The meeting was attended by Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi, Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar', and Culture Minister Mrs. Najah al-Attar.

The meeting was attended on the Pakistani side by Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Tanvir Ahmad Khan [title as received], and Pakistani Ambassador Syed Azmat Hassan.

Following the meeting, the president and Ms. Bhutto held a closed session. Talks dealt with the Middle East and South Asian issues and bilateral relations.

Al-Shar' Receives Foreign Minister

JN1805144090 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1115 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' received Pakistani Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan at noon today. Talks dealt with bilateral relations and some issues of joint interest.

Leaves Damascus 18 May

JN1805144590 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic
1415 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] Pakistani Prime Minister Ms. Benazir Bhutto left Damascus at 1530 today after a two-day cordial and official visit to the Syrian Arab Republic.

Heading those seeing Ms. Bhutto and her husband off at Damascus international airport was Prime Minister Mahmud al-Zu'bi and his wife. Also seeing her off were Foreign Minister Faruq al-Shar' and Pakistani Ambassador in Damascus Syed Azmat Hassan.

Afghanistan

Royalists Reject Role in Najibullah Government

BK1805084490 Hong Kong AFP in English 0837 GMT
18 May 90

[Text] Kabul, May 18 (AFP)—An Afghan opposition party which supports the intervention of exiled King Zahir Shah to end the country's dragging civil war Friday [18 May] said it had formally turned down an offer to join President Najibullah's government. The National Salvation Society (NSS), which backs the return of the ex-monarch now living in Italy, said an invitation to join a so-called neutral cabinet independent of the ruling People's Democratic Party of Afghanistan (PDPA) was rejected because the government lacked credibility.

NSS chairman Professor Muhammad Asghar said he had a 30-minute meeting with prime minister-designate Fazl Haq Khaliqyar on Thursday [17 May] during which he was asked to join the government. "He invited me so I went to see him in hospital. He told me I should cooperate with the government, but I told him I regret I cannot do that," Professor Asghar said.

President Najibullah on May 7 appointed Mr. Khaliqyar as the country's new prime minister, clearing the way for a cabinet independent of the PDPA. Mr. Khaliqyar, a senior politician, is not a member of the ruling party. A government economist and governor of the country's northwestern region, he was seriously wounded in a shootout between defecting mujahidin rebels and government troops May 6.

Government spokesmen had said earlier that Mr. Khaliqyar would form his cabinet within two weeks of the announcement of his appointment, but diplomats said the government was finding it difficult to field "credible people." For this reason, the NSS, which comprises academics, retired generals and ministers, but commands a modest political base, has suddenly become crucial for the Najibullah administration.

The former king, breaking a long silence last week, vowed to play an active role in resolving the Afghan conflict. He also boosted the political fortunes of the NSS which is seen as the only credible pro-royalist group here.

"Since the former king still commands a considerable amount of respect and is largely blameless (because he was out of the country for 17 years) people will wait for his next move rather than rush into a Najibullah government," a diplomat here said.

The timing of the ex-monarch's remarks are seen here as a signal to the May 30 superpower summit in Washington where the Afghan issue is expected to be discussed. His statements have dealt a major blow to Mr. Najibullah's plans to take the lead in the peace initiative, diplomats here said.

Electricity Equipment Contract Signed With USSR

LD1605173890 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] An agreement to provide equipment and tools for generating electricity to villages and hamlets located along the high voltage transmission line of Mazar-e Sharif, Balkh, Sheberghan, Baghlan and Konduz cities, financed by credit from the Soviet Union, was signed today in Kabul city.

The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports that on the basis of this contract, electrical equipment and tools valued at 1 million U.S. dollars will be delivered to Afghanistan within a month.

The agreement was signed by Ministry of Water and Electric Power representatives and the Soviet Embassy Commercial Section in Kabul.

Pro-Saudi Radio Station Burned in Paktia

LD1705191790 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] A radio station of the Wahhabi Sayaf extremist group was burned down recently in the region of (Kewa), Zazi District, Paktia Province. This radio station was engaged in propaganda against the people and homeland and in publicizing the Wahhabi sect. Experts from foreign countries including women and girls were working at this radio station. The Muslim and religious people of this region set the station on fire because activities were taking place in the Saudi Wahhabi radio station against the sacred religion of Islam and against Afghan tradition and customs with the existence of foreign women and girls. The station was seriously damaged and the foreigners who stayed there were forced out of the region.

'Intense Fighting' Reported in Several Provinces

BK1605141690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
1400 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say intense fighting continues between mujahidin and the Kabul regime forces in various parts of the country. Mujahidin damaged a military aircraft of the Kabul regime in an attack on Kabul airport. In another attack in Baghlan Province, mujahidin destroyed two outposts and killed eight militiamen of the Kabul regime. Mujahidin caused heavy damage to installations of the Kabul regime in Konduz Province and killed several KhAD [Kheda-mati-i-Etal' At-i-Dolati—former name of state intelligence service] agents.

Rocket Lands in U.S. Embassy Compound in Kabul

LD1605160990 Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto
1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Reports received by BAKHTAR say that today Pakistan-backed extremists fired 13 surface-to-surface rockets on residential areas of Kabul. One of the rockets landed in the U.S. Embassy compound. As a result of the

extremist rockets six of our compatriots were martyred and 17 others wounded. The injured were quickly taken to hospitals for intensive medical care. The rockets were fired from the directions of Paghman, Shakardara and Koh-e Safi by the extremists.

Two Pakistanis Allegedly Captured in Paktia

LD1605185590 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Two Pakistani citizens, Besharat Mahmud and Allah Mohammad Iman, were captured recently in the area of Kerezmir in Kabul and Ahmadzay area in Paktia in the course of operations by the Armed Forces. The BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] military section reports: The persons entered Afghanistan illegally with Sayyaf, the Wahhabi group, on the instruction of Pakistan's military intelligence, ISI [Interservices Intelligence], to mount subversive and espionage operations and to fire surface-to-surface missiles on cities. A machine gun and a submachine gun and documents that prove his identity as a spy were captured with Besharat Mahmud.

Military Operations Reported From Provinces

LD1705170590 *Kabul Domestic Service in Pashto*
1530 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Units and subunits of the Armed Forces stationed in Nangarhar Province are engaged in consolidating and strengthening their positions which were captured during the past several weeks by pushing back the Pakistani-backed armed extremists. The warmongering extremists are under pressure in the vicinity of Kama and Shewa regions, and they have not succeeded in carrying out any active combat operation.

Quoting a spokesman of the Armed Forces, the military sections of the BIA [BAKHTAR INFORMATION AGENCY] reports that the armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis have carried out intermittent heavy weapon firing during the past three days at security posts of Jalalabad city, residential areas of the city and at trenches of the subunits. In retaliation at the shelling, the firing positions and resistance points of the enemy were put under artillery and air raids, as a result of which 68 enemy positions have been vacated at the battle fronts during the past three days. One tank, three BM-12s, three rocket launchers, and two mortars belonging to the enemy have been destroyed.

The units and subunits are carrying their patriotic duties with high morale and combat preparedness. The source added that the units and subunits stationed in Paktia Province are enjoying high military preparedness and they are ready for every probable attack by the enemy.

The armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis launched an attack on a number of security posts in a limited region of Khowst major district from the direction of Tanay district on 13 April. This joint

attack by the enemy was repulsed in less than an hour and heavy losses were inflicted on them.

The same source reports that the Pakistani-backed armed extremists shelled some regions in Gardeyz city and a number of security posts around Khowst city during the past three days. In order to neutralize these criminal deeds the enemy's positions were put under artillery and air raids, as a result of which 52 extremists, including a ringleader—Malik Jan—were put out of action in the past three days. The enemy's one motor-vehicle carrying weapons and ammunition, one rocket launcher, four mortars, and several light weapons were destroyed. As a result of the firing by the Pakistani-based extremists one member of the subunits was martyred and another two, plus four civilians, were injured.

The same source reported that units and subunits stationed in Kandahar Province are holding their positions and are mostly engaged in military training and strengthening their positions. The armed extremists, Pakistani militarists, and Saudi Wahhabis carried out heavy weapon firing during the past three days at security posts around the city. In retaliation the enemy's positions were subjected to crushing blows, as a result of which 31 extremists have been eliminated in the past two days.

Some subunits have carried out combat operations in the region of Tang-e Ghar during the past three days, as a result of which a number of strategic peaks and heights have fallen at the hand of the armed forces: 78 warmongers have been evacuated from the combat lines and six motor vehicles carrying weapons and ammunition, three clothing and ammunition stores, and several enemy combat vehicles have been destroyed. Two motor vehicles, one rocket launcher, four machineguns, and one weapons dump have been seized. The subunits are discharging their duties with high morale.

Mujahidin Kill 31 Kabul Troops in 2 Provinces

BK1705142490 *Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu*
1400 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] More clashes have been reported between mujahidin and Kabul regime forces in Balkh and Jowzjan provinces of Afghanistan. Reports say that mujahidin killed 16 Kabul militiamen, including a commander, in (Paneda) region of Balkh and captured 25 others with their weapons. The mujahidin killed 15 Kabul regime troops in Sar-e Pol District of Jowzjan.

Bangladesh

Finance Secretary Says Economy 'Comfortable'

BK1705125290 *Hong Kong AFP in English* 1246 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Dhaka, May 17 (AFP)—Bangladesh has recovered from its critical financial situation and the aid-dependent country's overall economic condition was comfortable, Finance Secretary Khorshed Alam said

here Thursday [17 May]. "The government has successfully overcome the critical (financial) situation prevailing in the country during the past several months," Mr. Alam told reporters, adding that the "entire economic situation has reached a comfortable stage." Asked what got the runaway economy back on track, he said it may have resulted from a series of measures, including slashing spending and increased revenue earnings.

Bangladesh's fragile economic state came into the limelight following a public warning by former Finance Minister Wahidul Haq that "serious uncertainties," which had developed in mobilising the impoverished country's internal resources, could push Bangladesh toward a "big crisis." Mr. Haq, who resigned March 15, said the major economic problems were an increasing trade gap, widespread tax evasion, improper use of resources and capital flight.

But Mr. Alam said all was well and the economy was expected to register growth of 5.3 percent in the current fiscal year ending June 30, adding that "this is possible because of different reformative measures undertaken by the government."

In reply to a question, Mr. Alam said the foreign exchange reserve "remained stable at 451 million U.S. dollars ... sufficient for operational purposes." In April, he had told reporters that the reserves totalled 455 million dollars, while President Hussain Mohammad Ershad put the figure at 500 million dollars.

Mr. Alam said a team from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) had recently visited Bangladesh and left "impressed with the long-term macroeconomic measures being implemented by the government." He said that the IMF board, scheduled to meet on July 1, was expected to approve a planned policy framework for Bangladesh envisaging 201 million special drawing rights (SDR), equivalent to 267 million dollars. He said that in the first phase, the IMF would provide Bangladesh one-third of the total sum, with the rest to be disbursed over a three-year period.

Mr. Alam said the Washington-based World Bank was expected to release a 170 million dollar energy-sector credit soon, and that 64 million dollars of the credit would be from Japan. He said that 75 million dollars, part of a 175 million dollar finance-sector credit, would come from the bank by June 5, and the rest by the end of the year.

Japan is Bangladesh's single largest source of overseas aid.

Mr. Alam said the 1990-1991 fiscal budget would be a "realistic one," balancing revenue and spending.

Ekram Hossain, the internal resources secretary, told reporters that a revenue increase of 16.39 percent was recorded in the current fiscal year.

India

Government Working Against Super 301 Trade Act

BK1705161090 Delhi ISI Diplomatic Information Service in English 1433 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Government will take all possible steps to defend country's economic rights. Minister of state for commerce, Arangil Sreedharan, told Rajya Sabha during question hour on 17th May that India will be second to none in guarding nation's sovereign rights. He said government would not allow multinational corporations to dominate economy. Sreedharan said there had been failure in certain negotiations in past and said National Front government has now taken an uncompromising stand in accordance with our socio-economic conditions. India is having negotiations with underdeveloped countries to create a climate opposed to Super 301. He said that government made it clear several times that it would not negotiate under threat of retaliation under Super 301.

V.P. Singh Rules Out Mediation on Kashmir Issue

BK1705125190 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1230 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has declared that the country is fully prepared to meet any eventualities on the border with Pakistan. Intervening in the discussion on a calling attention notice tabled by Mr. P.R. Kumaramanglam, Congress-I, and others over the reported concentration of Pakistani troops close to the border in the Chhamb sector, the prime minister said Pakistan is supplying antitank mines, rocket launchers, AK-47 rifles, and possibly surface-to-air missiles to the secessionists and thereby building up a war hysteria. The prime minister said that no country can be oblivious to the happenings on the border. Pakistan will be mistaken if it thinks that they can take advantage of the situation.

The prime minister assured members that our flanks are fully guarded and all sections of the people are united in the matter of national security. He ruled out any mediation to resolve the bilateral issues with Pakistan, which can be considered only under the framework of the Simla Agreement.

Army Chief Blames Pakistan for 'Terrorist' Acts

BK1705091090 Delhi Domestic Service in English 0830 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The chief of Army staff, General V.N. Sharma, has asked jawans [soldiers] to be prepared for any future challenge on the borders because of the activities of a neighboring country. He was presenting colors to the 18th and 19th Guards near Nagpur today.

Referring to the situation in Punjab and Jammu and Kashmir, Gen. Sharma held Pakistan responsible for terrorist activities in these two states. He said that the

Simla Agreement signed between India and Pakistan ensured peace for 18 years between the two countries. He said the situation is now changing because of Pakistan's activity on our borders.

2 'Militants' Arrested in Kashmir; Official Fired

*BK1605145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 16 May 90*

[Text] In the Kashmir Valley, the security forces today arrested two top militants in (Madonna Saheb) locality in Srinagar city. One of them has been identified as a self-styled chief of the underground military organization, the (al-Khomeyni).

Meanwhile, the state government today dismissed from service Mr. Ali Mohammad Mir, the manager of the testing center of the State Small Industries Corporation. Mr. Mir had recently been arrested by the police for his involvement in subversive activities, including the kidnapping of the union home minister's daughter, Dr. Rubia Sayeed.

All educational institutions in the Kashmir Valley will reopen on the 21st of this month.

V.P. Singh Calls for Closer Cooperation With SRV

*BK1705160890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1530 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] The prime minister, Mr. Vishwanath Pratap Singh, has called for closer cooperation between India and Vietnam to face the challenges posed by the increasing use of economic levers as instruments of dominance. He was addressing a function in New Delhi marking the beginning of year-long centenary celebrations of the late President Ho Chi Minh. Mr. V.P. Singh said India and Vietnam share a close friendship extending over centuries. Ho Chi Minh and Mahatma Gandhi, in spite of apparent differences, led their nations in their historic victory over imperialism and colonialism through sacrifice and devotion.

Speaking on the occasion, the external affairs minister, Mr. I.K. Gujral, said Ho Chi Minh was a legend who inspired the people. The ambassador of Vietnam, Mr. Vu Xuan Ang; and the communications minister, Mr. Janeshwar Mishra, also spoke on the occasion. A special commemorative stamp and the first day cover were also released.

12 Persons Killed in Punjab Incidents

*BK1705145890 Delhi Domestic Service in English
1430 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] In Punjab, 12 persons, including one member of a rival gang, have been killed since last night. According to an official spokesman, five persons were killed by terrorists in separate incidents in Amritsar District and four

persons were gunned down in Faridkot District. Elsewhere in the state, two employees of a liquor vend [as heard] were shot dead in a village in Kapurthala District.

Iran

Ahmad Khomeyni on Loss of Confidence in Leaders

*NC1705120690 Paris AFP in English 1156 GMT
17 May 90*

[Text] Tehran, May 17 (AFP)—The son of Iran's late spiritual guide Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeyni has warned that Iranians are losing confidence in their leaders. Ahmad Khomeyni, quoted Thursday [17 May] in the newspaper Abrar, appealed to authorities to "speak less and act more".

The leadership has failed to provide a clear alternative to rival factions, notably in foreign policy, he said Wednesday [16 May] in a speech to religious leaders. "On the one hand we have slogans calling for a struggle against Western culture," he charged, "while on the other there have been big economic contracts with the West. "This ambiguity makes the people lose confidence in their leaders and question their statements, which come to nothing," Mr. Khomeyni warned.

He said that under current circumstances "if someone tries to explain the government's decision to modify certain measures, he is accused of being a liberal or outside the line laid down by Imam Khomeyni."

Warns Against Impossible Promises

*LD1705132890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 May 90*

[Text] The deputies and directors general of the Interior Ministry, accompanied by the political deputies of governors general from all over the country met with Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni at Jamaran yesterday evening. During this meeting Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni referred to the need to rely on the people for the progress of the revolution and stressed: You must strive to win the people's trust.

Continuing his remarks, he reiterated the importance of the responsible officials following a simple lifestyle and avoiding unnecessary formalities. He said: Avoiding unnecessary formalities in ministries and offices of the governors general is a virtue. He added: Our society is so sensitive that the people do not overlook any move or action.

Referring to the two existing thoughts in the country, one of which considers the opposing side as a slogan with no content while the other tendency considers its opposing side as a move ultimately seeking to support the capitalists, Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni said: This situation creates uncertainty among the people, and it is necessary for the system to

pursue and decisively implement the correct path in the cultural, political, and economic fields.

Continuing his remark, he warned the officials not to give promises, the easy and speedy realization of which is impossible even in the most developed countries of the world. He added: Failure to realize the many promises made in repeated speeches will make the people fed up with speeches. On the other hand it is unfair not to talk to the people. What is the alternative then? His holiness the imam used to say: When the statesmen make a speech by reading it from a prepared note, it is because they do not want to lose track in between [the audience's] shouts of greetings and salutations to make remarks which are either contrary to their policies or create disillusion among the people.

One should talk to the people, but briefly and with maximum benefit. Promises should be given to the people as far as capabilities allow their realization. The strong points should be mentioned as well as the points of weakness. The objective, thus, is that officials should not say something that they cannot put into practice. However, one should talk to the people; and one of the great features of our system is talking and unity between the people and the authorities. This must be safeguarded so as to secure the survival of the popular system.

Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni, referring to the principle of neither East nor West, said: If the principle of neither East nor West is raised, the people should be told to what extent this principle is respected and why it is not possible to stand beyond that extent; and the point from which one can or cannot come down should be discerned. Then the people understand why there is flexibility in some policies and harshness in other policies. Flexibility and harshness are both one policy. The situation has reached a stage now that if one wishes to explain to the people the reason behind the flexibility of government's policy toward a certain issue, he will be accused of either liberalism or deviating from the imam's line. Apart from this, he is frightened of being accused of compromising. As a result everyone pretends to be hot revolutionaries. Whereas a true revolutionary is a person who bears in mind the interests of the people and the revolution in the world, and one who never sacrifices the interests of the system so as to present himself as a desirable person. On the contrary, if he were to deem it expedient and after observation were to become convinced that a certain move would serve the interests of the people, the revolution and Islam, he would perform that move by relying on faith, piety and honor. He should not fear anyone's curse and criticism either.

At the conclusion of this meeting, Hajj Seyyed Ahmad Khomeyni expressed gratitude and appreciation for the gifts and donations given by the people in every province of the country to the holy shrine of Imam Khomeyni, may Almighty God be satisfied with his deeds.

Official Views Talks With U.S. at The Hague

LD1705130390 Tehran IRNA in English 0945 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—An official of the international legal services bureau of the Presidency said to IRNA here Thursday [17 May] Iran-U.S. talks at the International Hague Tribunal relate solely to the Algiers Accord signed between the two countries and that they do not have any political implications whatsoever.

The advisor to the Iranian legal bureau at The Hague told IRNA in an interview that representatives of the two countries have repeatedly made it clear that Iran-U.S. talks in progress at The Hague have no bearing upon any political development in any part of the world including the issue of release of western hostages in Lebanon.

Asked about the value of Iran's assets at the American banks which were frozen upon the orders of the then U.S. President Jimmy Carter in 1979, and the manner of their transfer to Iran he said: "In the wake of the Algiers Accord of January 19, 1981 the United States undertook, among its other commitments, to release those assets. Pursuant to the accord and within the Iranian assets with the American banks and the U.S. Federal Reserve Bank which were transferred to Iran through the Central Bank of Algeria.

"The first was simultaneous with the release of the American hostages in Iran who were in the hands of Muslim students following the imam's line. Initially the entirety of the Iranian gold bullions and other Iranian assets were released along with other assets with the Federal Reserve Bank as well as Iranian deposits and negotiable instruments with the foreign branches of the American banks together with the interest accrued to them and deposited same [as received] in the name of the Central Bank of Algeria with an intermediary bank, that is the British central bank. That was almost eight billion dollars.

"Of course according to another commitment which was part of the Algiers Accord the U.S. had undertaken to deduct certain sums, that is 3.667 billion dollars for settling Iran's debts for syndicated loans which Iran had received from the American banks at the time of the Shah, and another 1.418 billion dollars for settling Iran's debts to American banks. The remaining portion of the original eight billion dollars was transferred to Iran's Central Bank at that time.

"The second payments were made about six months after the signing of the Algiers Accord. The payments comprised of Iranian assets with the American banks within the U.S. territory plus the interest payable until the last day, the total of which was about 2.052 billion dollars. Out of this sum one billion dollars were deposited in the name of the Islamic Republic of Iran in an interest-bearing guaranteed account with the Central Bank of Algiers to be disposed of according to the rulings

of the International Hague Tribunal, and the balance has been deposited to the Central Bank of the Islamic Republic of Iran."

Asked about the current status of the three accounts, the official from the Presidential Office said: "The first account that was 3.667 billion dollars was drawn on for settling syndicated loans. Later it was found out that a balance remained in the said account, which Iran demanded from the United States, the latter defaulting [as received] the Islamic Republic filed a suit at The Hague tribunal which eventually entitled Iran to the principal and the interest of the sum which combined was more than 500 million dollars.

"Eventually in 1986 the U.S. remitted the balance, some 10 billion dollars remaining in the account on a provisional basis for clearing occasional disputes in remittances for settling other accounts.

"The second account that of 1.418 billion dollars was expended for remitting sums payable by the Iranian banks while at the same time sums payable to them by the American banks were recovered. This latter account had a balance of about 567 million dollars which was received from the U.S. in 1989 and transferred to Iran.

"A third account is a one-billion-dollar account in relation with The Hague tribunal which has been drawn on for paying judgement debts. That account is interest-bearing and now has a balance of about 800 million dollars."

Asked about the nature and content of recent talks between the two countries at The Hague tribunal the official said, "Iran and the U.S. recently agreed on two items for arbitration by The Hague tribunal which they will shortly present to the tribunal in accordance with Article 32 of arbitration rules of the tribunal, the tribunal being responsible to take up the plea and make sure that the two agreements are consistent with the Algiers Accord, and subsequently to issue authorization for payment of relevant sums from the guaranteed account.

"Against receipt of 45 million dollars the U.S. will quit claims in relation with 2,782 suits against Iran each involving a claim of less than 250,000 dollars. The said claims described by The Hague court as 'minor claims' are claims by American nationals as well as corporate bodies involving such topics as alleged breaches of contract, expropriation of assets by Iran and seizure of other property of American subjects in Iran. This latter category of claims had been previously filed with The Hague court, the U.S. Government undertaking also to directly respond to another 400 claims against Iran which were adjudged to fall beyond the responsibility and authority of The Hague court.

"The total value of claims to be settled between the two countries is about 180 million dollars plus an equivalent amount in interest. The agreement anticipates that all shares, properties and other in relation with those claims will be immediately remitted to Iran.

"Against receipt of 60 million dollars from Iran the U.S. Government shall quit the claim of almost 100 million dollars against Iran in relation with the principal and interest on 15 loans paid to some Iranian organisations and government agencies. The claim was previously filed with The Hague tribunal. The subject loans had been received by Iran (during the monarchy) mainly as financial aid as well as financing the foreign exchange resources for technical projects and agricultural equipments, the payments for the loans having been discontinued in the wake of the victory of the Islamic revolution in Iran.

Asked about the reason why upwards of 3,000 minor claims of the U.S. had been settled between the two countries outside of The Hague tribunal, the official said, "The parties' right for settlement of their claims outside of the tribunal is a recognized right. There were no legal impediments on the way of a mutual settling of those claims. Especially because it would take The Hague court more than 15 years to process those claims each party eventually having to spend several times the value of each claim against it, or the value of its own claim. In addition at times the legal procedure would also well involve legal damages far beyond the principal claim against each one. Therefore, the principal motive for deciding to settle those claims outside of the court was to prevent unnecessary costs, and speed up the legal process."

Asked about the date and manner of a projected payment of 105 million dollars by Iran to the United States for settling minor claims against each other, the official said: "45 million dollars are for minor claims of the United States against Iran and another 60 million dollars are to settle the 15 loans received by Iran during the monarchy. The payments are to be made in July this year and will be consistent with the usual customs thereof."

Asked about claims yet undecided by The Hague tribunal he said: "About 170 are now filed with the court."

Responding elsewhere to the question of whether Iran's claims against the United States will lie with The Hague tribunal or whether they will be settled by negotiation, the official said: "The most important claim of Iran against the United States is the claim commonly referred to as the F.M.S. which is relevant to military purchases from the United States (during the monarchy). The claim is now open at the tribunal with supportive documents by Iran, and defence and further supportive evidence will be presented when the case goes on the judge's desk."

"As a general rule, however, which applies to all manner of suits at courts anytime the parties to a suit should reach mutually acceptable terms for settling that claim between themselves they are legally entitled to the right of peaceful settlement out of court in which case they settle their dispute on those terms which was the case with a section of the same claim by Iran in which relation the U.S. agreed to pay eight million dollars of Iran's claims."

Asked to comment on whether or not any of minor suits by Iranian claimants against the United States had been settled out of court the official said: "Iranian claimants had lodged upwards of 100 minor claims against the United States which total slightly to more than one million dollars. The said claims were agreed on for settlement outside of The Hague tribunal, and negotiation in that respect still continues, though no definite agreements have yet been reached."

On whether the Iran-U.S. claims at The Hague tribunal had in any way affected the freedom of Western hostages in Lebanon, as had been suggested by certain international news agencies, he said that the claims lying with The Hague tribunal are entirely independent of any issue political or other and that naturally the case of the Western hostages in Lebanon could not have possibly affected the adjudication of claims at The Hague court.

The official made it clear that The Hague tribunal has been entrusted with the task consistent with the very provisions of the Algiers agreement between Iran and the United States and that the various suits which lie with it are not incidental to any development outside of the court.

Velayati Comments on Prospects of Peace Talks

NC1705142390 Tehran ETTELA'AT in Persian
24 Apr 90 pp 13, 15

["Political commentary" by A. Marvi containing report on "exclusive" interview with Iranian Foreign Minister 'Ali Akbar Velayati; place and date of interview not given: "A Talk With the Foreign Minister"]

[Excerpts] Another round of peace talks on the basis of the agenda formulated by the UN secretary general and endorsed by the UN Security Council looms before the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq. [passage omitted]

The slow pace of the peace talks and the lack of any results thus far has merely reinforced the situation of neither war nor peace in the region and exacerbated the lack of confidence and the fragility of the truce in the Persian Gulf. Furthermore, there has been an extensive and dangerous stockpiling of weapons in the region.

The new agenda proposed by the UN secretary general is to be reviewed by the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq during their talks under the aegis of Mr. Perez de Cuellar. Iran has officially accepted the new agenda and has declared its readiness to cooperate with the UN secretary general to advance the peace talks. [passage omitted]

I believe that the first item on the new agenda, which calls for pave the way for "later arrangements for a cease-fire and freedom of navigation in international waters and the Strait of Hormuz," conflicts with the first clause of Resolution 598 by linking the cease-fire in the Iran-Iraq war to "other factors." The secretary general's concept of "later arrangements" is still unclear. Are these arrangements concerned only with technicalities (such as separating forces which are too close, deploying forces of

the United Nations Iran-Iraq Military Observer Group at the mouth of the Arvand River, opening a direct crossing between the contact lines, or dealing with the problem of flooding in the southern fronts) or is he seeking new political successes?

This underlines an even more basic issue which is whether, from the Iranian point of view, the present cease-fire needs these "later arrangements."

Answering this question, Mr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati said: "Right from the beginning of the talks, the Islamic Republic of Iran constantly stressed that the cease-fire in effect does not have any flaws and therefore does not require modification. On this premise, linking the cease-fire to other factors is in fact tantamount to interfering with the sequence of the clauses of Resolution 598 and endangering the present cease-fire, which is what Iraq has been doing since the beginning."

The explicit remarks by our foreign minister on the possibility of any "later arrangements" for the cease-fire—when Iraq believes that the cease-fire remains incomplete unless it has the right to make maximum use the Arvand River, Persian Gulf, and the Strait of Hormuz—reveals the difficulties that the two sides are encountering in the talks on implementing the first item on the new agenda. It was on this basis that I expressed my opinion to the foreign minister that the first item on the new agenda was designed specifically to secure Iraq's concurrence in continuing the peace talks.

Mr. Velayati said: "Iraq's deductions or its definition of the cease-fire is entirely its own concern. We are not forced to emulate Iraq's views. What the secretary general has incorporated in the new agenda does not mean an emulation of Iraq. The issue of freedom of navigation in the Persian Gulf and the Strait of Hormuz is one of the matters which was mentioned right from the beginning in the talks with Iraq under the supervision of the secretary general. It is one of the most fundamental issues and we believe that it must be debated."

The foreign minister added: "As a semi-enclosed body of water, the Persian Gulf is governed by certain legal principles. The Strait of Hormuz, which is also a waterway between Iran and Oman, is also governed by certain legal principles. These two sets of principles are not the same, however, and Iran exercises its rights regardless of the conditions of war or peace. These rights are in accordance with the latest international convention on maritime rights approved in 1982 and have been officially recognized.

"Of course, the Strait of Hormuz is a waterway which can be used by all countries of the world, but this does not and cannot in any way negate Iran's rights in the Strait of Hormuz. We have rights in the Strait of Hormuz and in view of these principles it should be borne in mind that passage through the Strait should only be for peaceful purposes."

Another topic discussed was Iraq's rejection of the 1975 [Algiers] accord, which has evolved into an obstacle to progress in the peace talks. I told the foreign minister:

Mr. Velayati, the secretary general, in one part of the agenda he proposed, called for "resolving issues which remain in abeyance between the two sides on the basis of the principles formulated by the United Nations." We know that one of the most important obstacles to progress in the peace talks is Baghdad's rejection of the 1975 accord and the nonwithdrawal of Iraqi forces from areas it has occupied in Iran. In view of this fact, has the secretary general proposed any new principle to remove this obstacle?

Mr. Velayati said: "As far as we can tell, he has not. However, this does not mean that the secretary general will ignore the 1975 accord during the talks or that he will not keep it in mind in his efforts to find a solution. The secretary general openly and officially stressed the validity of the 1975 accord in the course of the talks. The 1975 accord is fully valid as a border treaty of good-neighborliness between Iran and Iraq. There is no reason for the secretary general to mention all facts every time he states his plans.

"Iran, the United Nations, the international legal community, and the secretary general all agree that the 1975 accord is completely valid."

Asked whether the secretary general has taken any steps to fix a timeframe for the implementation of the agenda, the foreign minister said: "We conveyed our views to the UN secretary general in writing via the Islamic Republic of Iran's representation at the United Nations. The secretary general has also received an official response from Iraq and he is now studying the two opinions so that he can finalize his proposals for the upcoming talks to take place under his supervision. We do not expect any reply from the secretary general before the talks begin nor he does not anticipate providing such a reply. However, in our view, the specifying of a timeframe would be an important factor for making progress.

"Following Iran's acceptance of Resolution 598, the secretary general proposed a timeframe for the implementation of the resolution. In the frequent sessions we had with him later, we reached a consensus on the details of this timeframe. However, Iraq never took a constructive approach toward the matter. We feel that one of the main reasons for the impasse in the talks is that Iraq did not accept the timeframe and unfortunately the United Nations did not deem it necessary to exert the necessary pressure or take the required steps to implement the UN proposals regarding adherence to the timeframe. We are now witnessing the negative repercussions of this policy."

I then asked the foreign minister about the Islamic Republic of Iran's expectations regarding the role of the UN secretary general in the talks and reminded the foreign minister that for the past few months it has appeared that Iran seems to expect the UN secretary general to play an "arbitrator's" role during the talks,

while the UN secretary general describes his own role as "exercising his good offices." I added that it is clear that the secretary general's assumption of the role of an arbitrator would first have to be agreed to by the Security Council, especially its permanent members with which Iran does not have diplomatic relations; that is, the United States and Great Britain. Perhaps it is this which would create difficulties for the secretary general's acceptance of the role of an arbitrator. I then asked Mr. Velayati for his opinion on the subject.

The foreign minister said: "This is not a matter of playing with words. We never suggested during the talks that the secretary general play the part of an arbitrator. We want the secretary general to fulfill his obligations and it is certain that the UN secretary general will act on the basis of the various UN and Security Council charters and regulations. It is on the basis of these obligations that he is intervening. We never said that the secretary general should be an arbitrator. It is others who have claimed that Iran has such expectations, and we deny these allegations." [passage omitted]

The foreign minister added: "Is the role of the United Nations, with all the powers it has, confined only to halting a dispute and not following up on its resolution? Following a cessation of war, should the United Nations leave the issue festering like a open wound in regions where the clashes took place so that it may evolve into a chronic canker? This is not at all logical. It is for this reason that we want the United Nations and in particular the secretary general to intervene actively in eradicating regional conflicts, especially the Iran-Iraq dispute.

"We do not, however, call it playing arbitrator. Does the United Nations have no part to play in eliminating the no war, no peace situation which threatens to become a festering wound? Is this an unwarranted expectation?"

I concluded my interview with the foreign minister with numerous other questions still rankling, such as:

Will the next round of talks encounter any success?

Has the Security Council, and in particular the five permanent members, reached a consensus on the mode of completely resolving the Iran-Iraq dispute?

What negative or positive effect will the propaganda of Iraq and its Arab protagonists as well as the negative propagandistic stance of the West have on the future course of the talks?

What will be the composition of the Iranian delegation, considering the probable rocky road ahead at the upcoming peace talks from the legal and political aspects?

In my view, it is vitally necessary that we strengthen our defense structure as this can be the only deterrent to Iraq's initiation of another war. However military strength in itself is not necessarily a harbinger of peace. Absolute peace is achieved by qualified and dynamic diplomats who have legal and political expertise.

Military commanders or leaders can help avert an outbreak of war, but it is the diplomats who will bring about its just and noble termination. The Iran-Iraq peace talks are so important that young Iranian diplomats lack the necessary experience to tackle them. The Iranian foreign minister, whose political acumen and fortitude is unquestionable, should call on advisers who have the experience, political record, and diplomatic awareness which will guarantee that the initiative remains in the hands of the Iranian delegation at the difficult peace talks.

Paper Says Iran 'Disgusted' With UK

LD1705113390 Tehran IRNA in English 0957 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Tehran, May 17, IRNA—The British mass media this week further exposed their frustrated hopes on the improvement of ties with the Islamic Republic, said a Persian daily Thursday. In its weekly political analysis, 'JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI' said that although the victory of the Islamic revolution inflicted blows on Britain, the British authorities have always been tempted to restore former conditions.

The 'DAILY TELEGRAPH' Wednesday [16 May] claimed that the Iranian and British officials are scheduled to meet in Dublin on that day. However, the report was flatly denied by director general of Western Europe department of Iran's Foreign Ministry Hoseyn Musavian.

The paper criticized London for failing to understand the Islamic revolution and how disgusted the Iranian nation is with British crimes both in Iran and the entire Middle East. "Britain is still thinking of its gone with the wind past" said the paper adding that this is why it sometimes likes to behave as a superpower. As a result, instead of trying to make up for its past errors, it is constantly putting forward conditions for improvement of ties with Iran, it added.

The daily recommended Britain to try to understand the realities and that the Iranian nation has been heedless towards the superpower and those who try to pose themselves as superpowers, and stop setting conditions. The London authorities are constantly tempted to resume ties with the Islamic Republic but the Majles approval in this connection is crystal clear—as long as Iran's conditions are not materialized there would be no hope for the Britains [as received].

The Islamic Republic of Iran severed its ties with Britain in March 1989 over British support for Salman Rushdie, the author of the blasphemous novel 'THE SATANIC VERSES,' following a week-long ultimatum given to London by Majles to stop supporting any anti-Islamic propaganda.

Dublin Talks Said 'New Chapter' in EC Relations

LD1705143190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1112 GMT 17 May 90

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] The joint meeting between Iran and the EEC took place in Dublin, capital of southern Ireland. This was the first time since the victory of the Islamic revolution that such a meeting has taken place and it provided the opportunity for direct exchanges of opinion between the Islamic Republic of Iran and the EEC. In the Dublin talks our country's Foreign Ministry director-general for Western Europe, heading a delegation, met and conferred with the political director-generals of France, Ireland, and Italy, as the former, present and future heads of the EEC. Talks were conducted during this one-day meeting about all topics of interest to the parties concerned. In spite of the fact that none of the parties have disclosed the details or level of progress of the talks, it is expected that the talks held between Iran and the EEC will be a turning point in relations between Iran and that Community, preparing the ground further for the expansion of relations between them. [passage omitted]

One of the plans of the EC is the establishment of a single currency market by the start of the Christian year 1993. The realization of this plan will bring about developments which will undoubtedly affect and change the nature of relations between all countries of the world with that economic and political bloc. From this standpoint, the Islamic Republic of Iran—in line with current and future developments of that Community—is on the point of planning its future relations with the EC. In other words, the EC is moving also to meet the changing relations of countries with the Community itself and this trend involves the adoption of coordinated and joint decisions as its basic pillars.

In connection with the adoption of joint decisions, one may point to the recall of the ambassadors of the member countries of the EEC from Tehran, following the issuance of the edict sentencing Salman Rushdie—writer of the blasphemous book THE SATANIC VERSES—to death. The repercussions of the publication of that book which finally led to the break in relations between Tehran and London did not remain limited to the two countries and, on the insistence of the London government—in spite of the disinclination of some member countries—it led to the mentioned reaction within the EC. Even though the ambassadors of the member countries of the EEC did not stay away for too long and though their return to Tehran isolated London, the event itself, however, was a sign that relations were changing between Iran and Europe.

In any case, the Dublin talks which were carried out with these considerations in mind can be counted as a new chapter in relations between Iran and Western Europe. These talks were staged at a time when it is only Britain that has no relations with Iran among European countries. So, bearing in mind that the British foreign minister has shown that he would like to have direct talks with Iran, Britain intended to turn the talks between Iran and the EC into talks between Britain and Iran and to settle its own problem alongside EEC issues. But it appears that she has not succeeded in this.

Alongside these issues, because of the Islamic Republic of Iran's spiritual influence in Lebanon and, with regard to the hostages, the question of the latter's release was also raised. In this connection the director-general of our country's Foreign Ministry said: Following the release of two U.S. hostages in Lebanon, the time for the release of all Iranian and Lebanese hostages has arrived. In continuation and with regard to negotiations concerning the release of Western hostages, he added: The release of hostages does not need negotiation; one party to the case has showed its goodwill and it is now the other party's turn to prove its goodwill.

Reportage on Foreign Ministry Visit to Dublin

WA1705185690

For reportage on the visit by a delegation from the Foreign Ministry to Dublin, Ireland, please see the International Affairs section of the 17 May West Europe DAILY REPORT and subsequent issues.

Karrubi Observes Final Phase of Sahand Exercises

LD1705141290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The final phase of the joint Sahand exercises was carried out today in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf, with the speaker of the Majles present.

[Unidentified reporter] Early this morning the final stage of the grand joint air-sea Sahand exercise was launched in the northern waters of the Persian Gulf. Mr. Karrubi, speaker of the Majles; commanders of the three forces; chief of the staff of the commander in chief of the Armed Forces; a number of military and civilian officials; and local dignitaries were present.

In one of the operations the destroyers, gunboats, and rocket launchers of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army's navy [as heard], together with naval units of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps [IRGC], fired at hypothetical enemy targets.

Continuing the exercises, the air units of Air-Sea Zone 2 of the Navy of the Islamic Republic of Iran Army fired guided missiles at the units floating in the sea, destroying them. Minutes earlier, a massive attack was launched by the Basiji and IRGC forces using fast boats equipped with artillery and mini-katusha. In this attack, the brave men of Basij and IRGC fired at marine objects destroying them. In continuation of this stage the following operations are to be performed: aircraft performing tracing of and firing on enemy positions, marine units firing at enemy aircraft, use of tracer bullets, marine transport operation, defensive and offensive formations, a parade by the marine units of the Army and IRGC, and combined helicopter and boat Attacks on the enemy fleet.

In an interview with a reporter from the Central News Unit, Mr. Karrubi said the performance of the forces participating in the exercises is positive. He said these

exercises and training operations will have fruitful effects on raising the combat potential of the naval and air forces.

Editorial Views Pressure on Syria's Al-Asad

NC1505140590 Tehran TEHRAN TIMES in English
7 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Will al-Asad Give in to Conservatives' Pressure?"]

[Text] King Husayn of Jordan has arrived in Baghdad to exchange views with the Iraqi President Saddam Husayn. The Saudi Crown Prince 'Abdallah too was in Syria on Saturday on the first leg of a tour of four Arab capitals in efforts to patch up the rift between the Syrian and Iraqi presidents.

Iraq has meanwhile proposed to host an Arab summit later this month with the issue of the Soviet Jews emigration to Israel as its topic.

The proposed Baghdad summit however faces a serious snag. The long hostility between Syria and Iraq is surely to send the summit on the rocks.

The presence of Syria is certainly a must for any Arab summit with the Palestine and Israel related issues on its agenda as Damascus has been in the forefront of the struggle against the Zionist state. Syria is indeed the only reliable force in anti-Israeli struggle in the Arab world in view of the open peace treaty between Israel and Egypt and the long clandestine dealings between Jordan and the Zionist entity.

Now the conservative wing among the Arab leaders is trying hard to convince President Haifz al-Asad to travel to Baghdad in a reconciliatory move.

But al-Asad should be aware of the fact that the agenda for the Baghdad summit will not end up to be the problem of the Soviet Jews influx to the Israeli occupied territories as claimed.

Rather the whole thing is a political venture to help Saddam Husayn out of the isolation that has befallen his regime after Iraq's execution of the British journalist Farzad Bazoft on charges of espionage two months ago.

The Arab heads of state have been shutting Western and regional capitals [as published] to prevent further isolation of Saddam Husayn over the past two months.

The proposed Baghdad summit too must be viewed in the light of these efforts to help Saddam out of his unfavorable political condition.

The Baghdad leaders meanwhile are trying to make most out of the summit in their capital. While seeing it as a good opportunity to come out of isolation they can fulfill their long-held claim to the Arab world leadership or at least come a step closer.

The recent propaganda blitz Iraq has launched on its so-called military strength too should be viewed in this light and scheme.

Now it is President al-Asad's move. Will he give in to pressures from the conservative Arab leaders and participate in the Baghdad summit?

President of Soviet Turkmenistan Pays Visit

LD1705120190 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Mr. Niyazov, president of Soviet Turkmenistan, accompanied by that republic's prime minister and 60 high-ranking religious, political, and cultural officials, arrived today in Iran through the border area of Moraveh Tappeh. According to a Central News Unit's report from Gorgan, upon his arrival, the president of Soviet Turkmenistan paid tribute in an interview to the supreme character of the founder of Islamic Republic of Iran, Imam Khomeyni, may God accept him to His paradise, and explained the reason behind his trip to Iran. He said:

This trip takes place following agreements reached between leaders of Iran and the Soviet Union, as well as in view of recent developments in the Union of Soviet Republics. Today we have come here to convey the warm and friendly greetings of the people of Turkmenistan to the Muslim people of Iran, in particular to the people living on the border region.

Then, while expressing pleasure about his trip, the president of Turkmenistan added: This visit takes place for the first time ever in the history of the two countries. In future meetings we will discuss border exchange issues with Mazandaran Province's officials.

Departs After Meetings

LD1705174490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1630 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Mr. Niyazov, president [title as heard] of the Soviet republic of Turkmenia, together with the prime minister and 60 other high ranking religious, political, and cultural officials of that republic who had come to our country, left Iran for Soviet Turkmenia this afternoon after meeting Iranian authorities and talking with them on frontier exchanges. They were seen off by the governor general of Mazandaran and the representative of our country's Foreign Ministry.

Trade Agreement Signed With DPRK

NC1805081890 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
0430 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] A memorandum of understanding was signed between the DPRK and the Islamic Republic of Iran at the conclusion of the visit to Tehran by a DPRK economic delegation. According to the agreement, the DPRK will annually purchase 1 million tons of oil from

Iran. Construction Jihad Minister Foruzesh, who escorted DPRK Foreign Trade Minister Kim Tal-hyon, chairman of the DPRK economic commission, to the airport, spoke to our correspondent on the outcome of this visit. We draw your attention to this interview:

[Begin recording] [unidentified correspondent] Mr. Foruzesh, during his stay in Iran, the chairman of the DPRK economic commission met with the authorities and officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran and held talks with them. I would like you to tell us what issues were discussed during these meetings and what the outcome of this visit was.

[Foruzesh] Mr. Kim Tal-hyon came to Tehran to attend the second session of the Iran-DPRK joint economic commission. During the course of his stay, he met his excellency the president and gave him a written message from His Excellency Kim Il-song, the DPRK leader, regarding the DPRK's support of the stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran. He also expressed the desire to expand cooperation in various economic fields.

He also requested that in this era of reconstruction the DPRK should participate in the reconstruction of our country and declared his immense willingness in this regard. He also had useful talks with all our brothers who are the counterparts in the various ministries of the members of the DPRK delegation. During his visit we set up four specialized committees: for industries, development and fisheries, banking and commerce, and coordination.

We had very useful talks during this period, as the DPRK has been our friend ever since we were going through difficult times. It expressed its willingness to participate in our economic reconstruction program. We were hopeful of finding ways and means to expand this cooperation.

We agreed to their request to import 1 million tons of our oil, various kinds of steel up to a total of 150,000 tons, and 100,000 tons of billets annually. We also reviewed cooperation in the field of industries, mines, and metals. It was decided that, if possible for both sides, the our trade should amount to \$600 million in all; that is, \$300 million for each side.

Similarly, certain projects in which they proposed participation, such as in the field of development and fisheries, were also assessed. Some of these projects, such as the Chah Bahar project, were agreed upon and we also concurred in this regard.

As regards fisheries, cooperation of various kinds was decided on in joint fishing in Iranian waters and in the waters further afield. It was also decided that five of their trawlers would engage in catching fish for us according to the program envisaged. Some of the varieties of fish obtained in this way can be used to produce fishmeal.

[Correspondent] What agreements were reached in the political field?

[Foruzesh] The DPRK has always supported the rightful stance of the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially as regards Resolution 598. They reiterated this in the course of this visit, especially the need for the precise implementation of Resolution 598 and the withdrawal of Iraqi forces from our territory.

[Correspondent] Thank you very much. [end recording]

Regime Said To Allow Opposition 'Activity'

TA1605191290 (Clandestine) Iran's Flag of Freedom Radio in Persian 1630 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] It is being said in Tehran's political circles that in the wake of intensifying economic and political problems in our country, the Islamic Republic regime intends to allow the Freedom Movement, led by Mehdi Bazargan, and the Association for the Defense of the Iranian Nation's Liberty and Sovereignty to indulge in political activity. It has been heard from these same circles that a faction of the Islamic Republic's hierarchy is in favor of once again giving a position of responsibility to Mehdi Bazargan, who was this regime's first prime minister.

Drug Seizures Reported in Asadabad, W. Azerbaijan

LD1605030890

[Editorial Report] Tehran Domestic Service in Persian carries two reports on drug seizures.

At 0730 GMT on 12 May the radio reports: "Guards attached to the Islamic Revolution Committee in Asadabad, Hamadan, seized 690 rolls [luleh] of opium from a four-man gang in that region."

"Members of the gang have admitted to having bought for resale 102 kg of opium. The guards impounded two sidearms, one car, and 650,000 rials in cash."

At 1030 GMT on 13 May the radio reports that revolutionary guards in West Azerbaijan "seized 550 kg of morphine from an international narcotics ring in Urumiyeh." It says that the ring was head by Borzu Farukhi, who has Turkish residency. "All of the moves of the ring were observed by the antinarcotics squad, from the initial purchase in Sistan va Baluchistan until its arrival in Urumiyeh via various routes and in various stages." The morphine seized is valued at 15 billion rials, it says, adding that "nine of the principle members of the ring confessed during cross examination to having smuggled 1,300 kg of morphine in three stages." The radio says that a further two rings have also been uncovered in West Azerbaijan Province: "One ring was found with 50 kg of morphine and the other with 200 kg of opium."

Opium Seized in Khorasan, Sistan-va-Baluchstan

LD1805031290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Simultaneous with the implementation of the Zafar-2 maneuvers [part of the antinarcotics campaign],

250 kg of opium was found on and seized from drug smugglers by the revolutionary guards of the Islamic Revolution Committee of Khorasan and Sistan-va-Baluchestan. Fifteen of these merchants of death were arrested; two weapons and three vehicles were also seized from the drug smugglers.

President Describes Political-Economic Balance

LD1705135490 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] Political assistants to the provincial governors-general all over the country met Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the republic, today before noon.

In a comprehensive statement at the said meeting Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani referred to the very important role which the political assistants play in the provinces and then said: The more we progress toward normalization of the country's revolutionary conditions, the less the society's political sensitivity will become. So there will be an increasing tendency toward welfare and material affairs. Thus, the officials in charge of the country's political management must arrive at a political-economic balance in the country on the basis of the conditions of the time and in accordance with meticulous planning.

He added: During the past 10 years, because of the war and revolutionary conditions the political aspects gained the upper hand overshadowing other aspects. During the reconstruction period and over the next 10 years we must take care that the revolution's cultural and political dimensions are not hit because of the economic dimensions and material growth. Our policy must call for maintaining a balance among the dimensions of social life. We must pay attention to production and utilization of the country's natural resources as well as to the structure and absorption of forces and also to the Islamic and revolutionary attitude.

Referring to the existence of a considerable number of human resources, especially young, in the administrative organs of the country at management and other levels, the president said: A force has been formed within the [political administration] management of the country whom we can trust and which must be maintained and further improved. Such an achievement is very valuable; few regimes in other countries have access to such capital.

Referring to the policies of the country's Five-Year Development Plan, Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani added: According to the statistics at hand, production in the country is on a growth pattern. Statistics for industrial and agricultural production during the first two months of the current year [beginning 21 March 1990] show a desirable growth. On infrastructural works such as steel, petrochemicals, energy, manpower training, and the like good work is being done.

Stressing the need to implement the project on the campaign against social [moral] voices, the president

warned against the dangers which ill-informed friends or ill-intentioned enemies may create with regard to the implementation of the said project. He said: Attention must be paid lest in the good movement begun by the Interior Ministry, rights of any individual are transgressed, in the name of campaign against social voices. Of course, the enemies will do their best to create false scenes to block that reforming move. And ill-informed and extremist friends may resort to extremist acts or engage in measures in contravention of religious texts [shari'] to give an ugly face to the campaign. The enforcement forces must act extremely intelligently; they must be balanced, logical, disciplined, legal and Islamic. This work must be accompanied by a series of fully-explained cultural activities. The property and dignity of individuals must be respected. Care must be taken not to trample on the rights of anybody.

The president then referred to the movements of politically bankrupt groups such as the Hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization], liberals, nationalists, and monarchists as well as irresponsible elements and the colonialists and said: These individuals must know the spirit of the political movements of the country is that same line which has been drawn by Imam Khomeyni, may he be admitted to God's paradise, and His Eminence Ayatollah Khamene'i, the leader of the Islamic Revolution, and the Muslim people. There is no room for the appearance of perverted movements and those associated with colonialism and those who are politically bankrupt. Of course, they can be at the service of the people, like other members of the society, once they reform themselves and attract the confidence of the people, the leadership, and the officials of the country's regime. Nobody will reject those who truly make a commitment to serve.

In conclusion of his remarks the president of our country added: The administrative policies of the country are fully clear. We hope that over the next 10 years of reconstruction work, through utilization of natural resources and also through necessary mobilization, we will witness an improvement in the economic situation and social equilibrium. We hope to be able to present this country as a revolutionary and Islamic model to the world.

Views Reconstruction Issues

LD1505143390 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 15 May 90

[Text] President Hashemi-Rafsanjani stressed the need for the people's presence on the stage of the country's reconstruction and for their assistance in the reconstruction of regions which sustained damage in the course of the imposed war. He said that the issue was an Islamic, humanitarian, national, and revolutionary matter.

Announcing the fact in a gathering of representatives of the vali-ye faqih [supreme jurisconsult], Friday imams, and governors-general of war-stricken regions and

assisting provinces [assisting reconstruction], the president also stressed the need to view the people's participation in that important task as a serious matter and noted the role of Friday imams in strengthening the people's spirit and selflessness and sacrifice on the stage of reconstruction.

Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani spoke of the presence of the people on the stage of reconstruction and of their assistance in the reconstruction of regions which sustained damage in the course of the imposed war as a cultural, constructive, spiritual, and valuable movement. He asked the vali-ye faqih's representatives, Friday imams, and the governors-general of assisting provinces to identify the practical and active role of their regions in undertaking part of the task of the reconstruction of war-stricken towns and villages.

According to the report, in the meeting, which was also attended by Mr. Mirzadeh, the vice-president for implementation matters, and the deputy minister for housing and urban development, a report about measures taken toward the reconstruction of war-stricken areas since the establishment of the cease-fire was presented to the president. Mr. Mirzadeh expressed hope that the reconstruction of the towns of Gilan-e Gharb, Bostan, Sar-e Pol-e Zahab, and Dehloran will be completed by the end of the current year [ending 20 March 1991]. He also stressed: If the necessary credit is made available, the reconstruction of the cities of Khorramshahr, Abadan, and Qasr-e Shirin can also be completed in less than three years.

In the meeting, the means of expediting and reconstruction of war-stricken regions and the ways in which a greater role in the matter can be given to the people was discussed.

10 Billion Rials for Khorramshahr Reconstruction

LD0905164290 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 9 May 90

[Text] With the approval of the headquarters in charge of the reconstruction and renovation of Khorramshahr, 10 billion rials was allocated to continue the reconstruction, renovation and repair work in Khorramshahr. According to an IRNA report, from this sum 2.8 billion rials has been allocated to continue reconstruction work on the infrastructure and provide general services, and 3 billion rials to reconstruct villages.

Paper Sees U.S. Moves as Sign of Weakness

NC1505140790 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 7 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "U.S. Exhibiting Weakness"]

[Text] Though not a polite and acceptable practice, but it is frequently seen that when a weak person fails in his endeavors to make his opponent yield or suffer a defeat he starts abusing him. That is exactly what the United States is engaged in doing since the leader of the Islamic Revolution,

Ayatollah Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i and other officials declared that Iran will not negotiate with the U.S.

More than two years after the Halabjah massacre carried out by the Iraqi Ba'athists resulting in the death of more than 5,000 Iraqi Kurds an American daily, the Washington Post, claims that Iran too used chemical weapons there in March 1988. The daily concludes that Iraq was not solely responsible for the great loss of civilian life in Halabjah in northern Iraq. Of course, as usual the Voice of America radio is making a propaganda fuss over the new allegations against the Islamic Republic.

Another reaction shown by the U.S. administration is ordering its stooges in Hijaz to change their decision on the issue of allowing 135,000 Iranians to enter Hijaz this year for performing the hajj pilgrimage. As a result of mediation efforts by certain Muslim countries the Saudi regime had reportedly agreed that in accordance to the hajj quota system it had announced three years ago and Iran's share being 45,000 per year Iran could send a total of 135,000 pilgrims this year.

The head of the Hajj and Awqaf (religious endowments) Organization announced Saturday that the Saudi government is not going to allow Iranian pilgrims to Mecca this year, too.

Obviously this declaration by the Saudis who, we were told, had positively responded to the mediation efforts of some Muslim heads of state was made in obedience [as published] to orders from Washington.

On the other hand more is being recently said on Iran's involvement in the so-called international terrorism. And also the strategy used in Latin American countries and Eastern Europe: that of making the people to crave for democracy—Western style—is being implemented for the Iranian masses.

In line with that strategy comments and viewpoints are frequently seen in the Western media claiming that people in Iran are losing enthusiasm for the Islamic Revolution and the regime. Political observers in the U.S. write that Ayatollah Khamene'i is not widely accepted as the successor to Imam Khomeyni.

There is no need to say that such views are biased. That is quite apparent. The truth is that the announcement made by Ayatollah Khamene'i on Wednesday [16 May] that he was against holding negotiations with the U.S. and that he will not permit the Islamic Republic government to do so, was greatly and enthusiastically acclaimed by the audience at the Hoseyniyeh Imam Khomeyni. Of course many who were not present there did the same at the Tehran University grounds on Friday [11 May]. And others demonstrated their full support to the leader and what he said about Iran-U.S. ties by marching towards the U.S. espionage den and rallying in front of it on Sunday.

Opposition Reports 'Severe Unrest' in Kerman

JN1705205890 Baghdad INA in English 1730 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Paris, May 17, INA—The Iranian opposition organisation of Mojahedin-e Khalq said today that the southern Iranian city of Kerman was the scene of severe unrest during the past two days. A statement issued here by the organization said that following the armed attacks against the regimes' guards and suppressive forces which wounded several of them, widespread clashes broke out throughout the city between angry residents, chanting slogans in support of the Mojahedin, and security forces which continued for many hours.

The regime declared a state of emergency in the city, mobilized all its suppressive forces, set up check points, increased guards and police patrols and began a house-to-house search. Based on the same reports, Colonel Yazdani, a senior police commander in the province of Kerman was immediately dispatched to scene of clashes. Latest reports say that the state of emergency and an atmosphere of extreme tension continue in the city.

Only last week, thousands of residents in the north-eastern city of Mashad had staged widespread demonstrations against the regime of the mullahs.

Tudeh Issues Message on Congress, Program

LD1705093790 (Clandestine) Radio of the Iranian
Toilers in Persian 0230 GMT 16 May 90

[Text] Dear listeners, members and supporters of the Tudeh Party of Iran. The plenum of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran held in the month of Farvardin 1369 [21 March-20 April 1990] has issued a message about the holding of the third congress of the party and the need for the active participation of all the members and supporters of the party in the democratic planning and convening of that congress. We draw your attention to this message:

Message to the members and supporters of the Tudeh Party of Iran. Dear comrades: The plenum of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran held in the month of Farvardin was convened under special and critical conditions. The varied and complicated problems which the conditions of life [as heard] have imposed upon the party during the past two years must be studied and dealt with in a speedy manner. The plenum of the Central Committee of the party tried, despite its short duration, to take certain decisions about increasing the effectiveness of the party and to provide certain goals for its activities. However, without doubt, the most important decisions of the plenum are those which open the way for the real and active participation of the members of the party in all the stages of the life of the party.

In this context, the most important issue is making preparations for the democratic convening of the congress. This means holding elections in foreign units, attempting to find ways for the participation of party

supporters inside the country in all aspects of the party life, and formulating the constitution and program of the party through creative and open discussions among its members and supporters.

Recent developments in Iran and in the world at large have placed the need for changing the program of the party on the agenda. The plenum of the Central Committee of the party neither wanted nor could approve a new program on its own, because such a thing can only be done through the participation of all the members and supporters of the party. Therefore, the Central Committee plenum only approved a short-term plan of action. It is natural that discussions about the new party program must be one of the most serious issues discussed in party publications and in all party units, whether inside or outside [the country]. At the end of this process, the new party program should be approved by the next congress.

The same thing applies to the constitution of the party. The future constitution of the Tudeh Party of Iran should be a document which both reflects the views and demands of the majority of the party members, as well being based on the long experiences of progressive and revolutionary parties and organizations.

It is not a secret that, at the moment, both among the members and supporters of the party, as well as outside it, there are numerous viewpoints about organizational principles governing communist and labor parties. The constitution which should be approved will replace the present constitution of the party. Therefore, the question is what should be eliminated from the party's life and what should be maintained. The answer to this question can only be given by the entire party, because this issue concerns all the members of the Tudeh Party. For the time being, one can only say that in the course of the formulation of the new constitution one should, without any haste, make use of all the former points of strength, while on the other hand one should oppose all nondemocratic and unacceptable principles and ideas. The future congress of the party will be really effective and democratic congress only if it can reflect the views existing inside the party, not only regarding constitutional issues and the programs of the party, but also the evaluation of the work and activities of the party in the past. In order to do this, arrangements for the congress should be made in such a way that they will be accepted and approved by the majority of members and supporters of the party. This issue applies both to the ideological and political aspects of the congress; namely discussions regarding the preparation of the documents of the congress, as well as about organizational arrangements and the methods used for the selection of the representatives to the congress.

Dear comrades: Our recent and former experiences show that the best and most impressive resolutions and agreements if they are not supported by action are condemned to oblivion and futility from the start. It seems that there are no differences of opinion regarding this matter. The

only discussion is about who should provide sufficient guarantees for the implementation of the correct and principled resolution of a party gathering. In our view, no one except the party masses can guarantee the implementation of these resolutions. It is up to the party masses who should, through their active participation in the life of the party and with a sense of responsibility, guarantee the implementation of the resolutions of the plenum. Toward this end, the duty of the plenum was to provide conditions under which party masses can play their real role. Decisions regarding the holding of elections within party units outside the country and the implementation of the wishes of the strugglers inside the country and ways and means of participation in the congress and the dissemination of party issues among members and supporters for the sake of open and free discussions are among the measures which, in our view, pave the way for the expression of views and the active participation of party members in all aspects of the life of the party.

Once again, we turn to the members and supporters of the party and ask them to ensure the implementation of all the decisions of the Farvardin plenum through their active participation in the works of the party.

Dear comrades, all of us know that during recent years a number of the members and supporters of the Tudeh Party of Iran have left the party ranks due to many practical and ideological reasons which cannot be elaborated here. Among them there are many who still feel a great attachment to the party and its human aspirations. In our view, one of the most important duties is to invite these comrades to participate ideologically and practically in the life of the party. We believe that today no obstacle and no boundary separates us from each other. All of us should be able to come together in a democratic way through learning from experience and in an atmosphere of multiplicity of views and free expression jointly proceed toward the aspirations of freedom and social justice. It is only through this method that one can enhance a climate of trust within the party, strengthen the party from every point of view, and with the support of other democratic forces succeed in eliminating the velayat-e faqih regime. Forward toward the convening of a democratic congress! Forward toward the reconstruction of the Tudeh Party of Iran!

[Signed] The plenum of the Central Committee of the Tudeh Party of Iran, Farvardin 1369 [21 March-20 April 1990]

Student Letter Condemns Mohajerani Article

NC1705150990 Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI
in Persian 2 May 90 p 11

["Text" of letter sent to JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI by the Unity Consolidation Office of the National Union of the Islamic Councils of University Students; date not given]

[Text] On Thursday [16 April], an afternoon newspaper published a brief and extremely useful article by a daring author in response to remarks by the U.S. secretary of

state calling for direct talks between us and the United States. The author first briefly refutes possible criticism from people who oppose his idea, and then goes on to prove the benefits that direct talks would have. In conclusion, he uses logic, religion, and history to justify these talks, describing them as a method used by the prophets and immaculate imams and by revolutionary and independent statesmen.

It is very surprising how time makes one forget. It is as if we were not the ones who justly made the prime minister of the interim government [Bazargan] the target of our harshest attacks because of his meeting with Brzezinski and who are today resorting to so many justifications for a similar vile act now. Not only are we saying that this act is appropriate, but we are also saying that it is necessary and in accordance with what the immaculate imams and revolutionary people would do. Really, what has changed? Since the Algiers meeting, have all possible doubts and misgivings about the enmity of the imperialist world-devourers toward the Islamic revolution and other deprived nations of the world ceased? Have we forgotten the Tabas attack, the Nowzheh coup, and the imposed war, or the occupation of Grenada and Haiti? Have we forgotten what happened to the passengers of the airbus? Have we forgotten how the brave personnel of the Navy were buried in the bloodstained waters of the Persian Gulf by the U.S. mercenaries? Have you received a written apology from the Great Satan of which we are unaware? Has the nature of the imperialist system changed without our knowledge?

If this is not so, then why are you giving a green light?

The author of the article refers to U.S. praise of Syria on the hostage issue and writes: "It is because of this that the friendly and fraternal Government of Syria did not refrain from negotiating directly with the United States and thus emerged as a media star in the release of the hostages." Sir, this is not the first time that this friendly and fraternal government has turned itself into a media star for the Americans and the West. Previously, Syria enjoyed this position because of the role it played in the problems of Lebanon and Palestine. And do we, who entertain thoughts of playing such a role today, want to render such services and to kneel down in this way before the sinister objectives of imperialism?

Elsewhere in this article, the author says talks are necessary "especially since we have not sought to build a high wall around our country and people or live in a world that negates relations." Mr. Author, your mistake is in that you have equated the entire world with the United States. With which other country, except the United States, South Africa, and the usurping Zionist government, have we severed our relations for you to speak about a high wall and negating relations? Can your justification of this be considered a justification for the establishment of relations with the other two racist and usurping governments as well?

Another piece of advice the author gives his readers is on not playing with slogans. Yes, "direct all your shouts at America" and "tell America to be enraged with us and die of this rage." This slogan was paid for with the blood of thousands of martyrs in blood-stained shrouds. And now too, despite the directives and advice of the author, we do not regret that this blood was shed and we will continue to shout that the root of all our problems is the U.S. Government. Quo vadis? The author of the article presents five premises to justify his proposals and his compromise. A glance at the depth of the issue shows the emptiness behind these proposals. We will briefly discuss why.

A. The first premise he offers in an effort to justify direct talks with United States is that the U.S. Government, with its influential role in the Security Council, can affect Resolution 598. Thus the author wants to gain U.S. support for Iran in the peace talks. But if we look at world developments during the past year, we can see what price has been paid for U.S. support. Basically, this support is nothing but a mirage. Recent developments in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe have fundamentally altered world equations, and, in turn, altered the position and importance of many issues. The confrontation between West and East over world problems is ending, or has at least assumed a new status. Neither side is becoming involved in confrontations over problems of other countries such as happened with the Cuban missile crisis or other similar crises. A good example of this is the U.S. Government's stand on the Lithuanian problem. One outcome of this development was a reduction in the strategic importance of Iran for the West and especially for the United States; and requests and pleas for direct talks will not yield anything. Sir: Things are changing in the world and we appear not to notice these changes. The map of the world and world equations have changed. The United States will not spend what it spent on Iran in the past. We should open our ears. But all these are separate from the main issue. Let us assume that the United States does rise to support us before Iraq. Dear friend, what price did we pay for the support it gave during the 19 August [1953] and 5 June [1963] coups? If they ask us to pay what we paid for the 19 August coup, will we be prepared to do so?

B. The second premise is on the unfreezing of our assets and allowing delivery of spare parts. The third premise is our hostages in Lebanon, the oppressed Lebanese, and Shaykh 'Ubayd. It seems that the dear author has forgotten why these things took place. If we had not made the revolution or if, after the revolution, we had curled up in a corner and not created the incident at the nest of spies, if the problem of Lebanon and Palestine was not important to us, and if... then all these would not have happened. [sentence as published]

C. The fourth premise is the author's reference to the activation of Iraq's foreign policy. While we believe our Foreign Ministry and our foreign policy must become active, we nevertheless feel that this activation and our presence on the world scene should take place, as all our officials have repeatedly pointed out, in support of the

deprived and oppressed and in defense of our national and Islamic resources. We condemn the idea of following in the footsteps of the Iraqi regime and of trying to overtake it in the race for approaching the great Satan. Let us not forget that our press interpreted the talks and contacts between the Iraqi regime and American officials as proof of the Iraqi regime's dependence on the United States and condemned these talks. How can we today, in addition to endorsing these talks and contacts, also try to justify this stand?

D. The last premise used to justify the need for closeness to and establishing ties with the United States was the need for reconstruction in the country following the damage inflicted by the war. This kind of an approach to problems, which calls for dependence on foreign countries in solving all problems, is basically apostate in nature. It is not a matter of not needing help from outside. The issue is that when we make everything contingent on help from others, then does this not mean that we are negating our very existence and portraying ourselves as a country that deserves colonialism and exploitation? This issue is similar to the issue of loans which was raised immediately after the acceptance of Resolution 598. This was the issue then too. Without having any specific program or strategy in mind or knowing what we would do if we did receive a loan, we were affected by instigations and inculcations by others and started to call for foreign loans. The question is: What strategy does the author have in mind and has he studied the country's potential before calling for such assistance or has he acted just like those who were calling for foreign loans? It is as though we compiled precise long- and short-term plans, thought about all aspects, and started to implement these plans and solve problems and then suddenly were faced with a deadlock and asked for help in order to emerge from it.

We believe that the problems of the country, foremost among which is reconstruction, demand that we regain our national and Islamic identity and become aware of and acquainted with our material and moral potential. We have before us the example of the fate of countries that turned to others and especially to the United States for refuge. Let us learn from their fate and rely on divine assistance, our faith, and our Muslim and committed nation, and by maintaining our firm belief in our principles, not sell off so cheaply to foreigners what our martyrs won for us.

Paper Urges Ties With 'Dispossessed' in U.S.
NC1505145490 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 5 May 90 p 2

[Editorial: "Yes to Relations With America's Dispossessed"]

[Text] "The U.S. propaganda machinery has deafened the ears of the people of the world about human rights and the rights of the citizens in the United States." [passage within quotation marks published in boldface] (Iranian President Seyyed 'Ali Khamene'i announcing formation of an official

committee to investigate the human rights situation of Afro-Americans/Sept. 14, 1984).

If Iranian policy-makers and especially those burning the midnight oil on behalf of the National Security Council have an eye peeled on the future, now is an excellent time to breathe life into the Afro-American human rights watch committee which was announced nearly six years ago but has, unfortunately, not gone beyond the idea stage since.

Firstly, this year coincides with the 25th anniversary of the martyrdom of Malcolm X (Feb. 21, 1965) and his 65th birth anniversary (May 19, 1925). Both these events are being greeted with an unprecedented Malcolm X revival amidst the Africans in America that is certainly unwelcome in higher official circles.

Naturally so. It is widely held that an FBI/CIA operation, fronted by gunmen from the heretical Nation of Islam movement, assassinated what was certainly the most revolutionary American voice in this century. Fortunately, death has made him bigger than he was in life. As Newsweek magazine of Feb. 26 put it: "Set against a backdrop of inner cities ravaged by crack, crime and AIDS, and a larger society that has grown impatient or indifferent to the cause of African-Americans, Malcolm's maxims on self-respect, self-reliance and economic empowerment seem acutely prescient."

What is so essentially relevant about Malcolm X today or Hajj Abdul Malik el-Shabazz as he called himself after converting to Islam, is that at different stages in his 39 years, he personified both the knottiest consequences of the enslavement and systematic degradation of African-Americans and the solution to their psychological, spiritual, material and physical oppression. His rise from a dope-peddler, procurer and thief, the resultant 6.5 years in prison; the catalytic effect of his personality in building the Nation of Islam; his break with its founder Elijah Muhammad; his emergence as an international figure and finally his espousal of Islam and the Koran as being a solution to the plight of Afro-Americans, has marked Malcolm X as perhaps the most dynamic black in American history and indisputably the touchstone to their future liberation.

Significantly, at the end of his life Malcolm X was in the process of canvassing worldwide support for a campaign to bring the United States government [USG] to trial at the United Nations for its calculated and long term denial of human rights to Afro-Americans. He likened the USG to Israel and the South African regime.

Ayatollah Khamene'i in his 1984 announcement of Iran's Afro-American rights committee also gave as a stated objective, the bringing to trial of the USG. In July of that same year, then Majles Speaker Hashemi-Rafsanjani committed himself to opening up Iranian embassies worldwide for support of the cause of Afro-American liberation.

From Malcolm till today, black America remains in a state of decline. They account for 45 percent of the prison population though they number less than 15 percent of the national census. The median income of blacks is less than 60 percent of their white countrymen. Upwards of 50 percent of black children are born out of wedlock. Their communities are ravaged by alcoholism and drugs. These realities represent the consequences of the Africans' bleak history in America and the systematic denial of rights, lack of equal opportunities and the resultant chaos these forms of social alienation engender. Of course, blacks are not alone—the U.S. houses 60m functional illiterates, all aliens to the American dream.

A second element Iranian planners need to consider is the fact that Islam is the fastest growing religion in America. Estimates of the Muslim population run as high as 8m. The vast majority of those who convert to Islam (as opposed to immigrant Muslims) are the descendants of the American slaves. Surely Iran, as the focus of resurgent Islam worldwide, has a commitment to that nascent community whose numbers will by the turn of the century, be greater than that of the Jewish community.

In this respect, the time has come to reinvigorate Ayatollah Khamene'i's original concept of looking into African-American human rights. Here a note of caution is needed: the Iranian institutions now functioning in the U.S., i.e. the student associations and Bonyad-e Mostaz'afan [Foundation for the Oppressed] because of their counterproductive and hegemonist attitudes with respect to Islam in America; both are held suspect by the indigenous community; should be shunned entirely if this campaign is to survive.

Thirdly, a convergence of Malcolm's and Ayatollah Khamene'i's views would be a good vehicle for exposing American terrorism both at home and abroad. Consider that between April 29-30, the occasion of Israel's memorial and independence days, 650,000 Palestinians in the Gaza Strip were under house arrest. That 48 hour period totalled 1,300,000 days of imprisonment for the Gazans, which equals 3,561 years and is equivalent to keeping 60 men imprisoned for 60 years. All this over a two day period so that the Israelis could celebrate their theft of Palestine in peace.

Mass house arrest is also applied on Palestinian Land Day and the anniversaries of the martyrdom of Abu-Jihad and the "intifadah". These literally thousands of years of imprisonment per year go almost unheard of, whereas a single release of an American hostage is covered by the Western media for days on end. The point to be made here is that America bankrolls Israel's massive terror tactics on these occasions and don't think keeping 650,000 humans under house arrest comes cheap.

Or consider that on April 26 four Palestinians were killed and 150 wounded by Israeli troops, mostly in the Gaza refugee camp of Jabalya. That date coincided with the first day of the religious holiday marking the end of Ramadan. Mr. George Bush on the same occasion sent

an end of Ramadan message of felicitations to Muslims in America, while American taxpayer dollars were tearing through Muslim Palestinian youngsters in the form of Israeli bullets. Realpolitik and double-Bush-speak for the Muslim world.

With speculation raging both domestically and internationally about future Iran-U.S. ties, Ayatollah Khamene'i earlier this week stepped in and said those calling for the opening of negotiations with the U.S. were either naive or terrified. In the context of his speech we second his statement. Parallel to this however, Iranian officials need to consider that there are two Americas: those who have and those who have not. Being of African heritage plays a significant role in this divide but America is also teeming with white, Indian, Hispanic and other dispossessed. Thus we say yes to ties with America's growing numbers of downtrodden and huddled masses.

And what better vehicle than an international think-tank-cum activist committee for educating the world concerning America's domestic human rights abuses? Leonard Peltier who is an American Indian, Susan Rosenberg of Jewish extraction and Geronimo Pratt from the African diaspora and all currently political prisoners in a nation that officially claims not to have any, would probably appreciate the effort. Willie Bennett would no doubt be pleased and capitals from Beijing to Accra could be enlisted as supporters.

Commentary on 'Arafat-Saddam Relationship

NC1105174090 Tehran KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL
in English 28 Apr 90 p 7

[Commentary: "Arafat and Saddam—Who is Helping Whom?"]

[Text] When Palestinians and non-Palestinians were commemorating International al-Quds [Jerusalem] Day last week (Fri. [April] 20) the PLO chief was holding a lengthy meeting with Iraqi dictator Saddam Husayn in Baghdad. Nothing is extraordinary about the six-hour session between Palestine Liberation Organization chairman, Yasir 'Arafat and his Ba'thist host.

What struck a disturbing cord was a PLO statement made at the meeting attended by senior officials from both sides. In progressive and revolutionary circles the PLO's remark was another indication that Mr. 'Arafat has indeed become out of touch with affairs in the occupied territories and/or he is inclined to introduce Mr. Saddam Husayn for what he is not.

News agencies covering the Baghdad story quoted the PLO leadership as saying that "Iraq's attitude to confront Israel, has, for the first time, given the Palestinian uprising more strength and hope and solidified morale to counter the Zionist occupation." The PLO's haphazard statement was related to Saddam's warning last month that Baghdad would 'burn half of Israel' if the Jewish state attacked Iraqi installations.

It only requires a little bit of commonsense to realize that Saddam's threats and 'Arafat's subsequent 'confirmation' of Baghdad's anti-Zionist character were politically motivated. For it is neither the Ba'th Party's intention to get involved in any anti-Israeli action, nor does the PLO have any interest in a military confrontation with the Zionist enemy. 'Arafat and Saddam are two sides of the same coin—a coin that specifically fits Israel's terror machine.

Palestinian revolutionaries confronting Israel in the occupied territories have come a long way from estimating Saddam as an enemy of Israel. Those living and fighting in the Gaza Strip, West Bank and occupied al-Quds firmly believe that their lands will not be liberated with the aid of empty slogans. The oppressed Palestinian masses have discarded the thought of Saddam waging war against Israel. He is simply not of the class to do so and threaten his own rule.

The gathering in Baghdad was another maneuver in boosting Saddam's image in the Arab world and extracting petro-dollars from rich Arab states to help meet the despot's dangerous military plans. Of course dangerous in the sense that Persian Gulf littoral states will be under continued threat. To buy Saddam's 'friendship and protection' they cannot afford not to bestow favors on the man who 'fought for the Arab cause' in his war with the Islamic Republic of Iran. Iraq's ambitious chemical, biological and nuclear programs have never been nor will ever be a real threat to the regime occupying al-Quds. Nothing has happened so far to prove otherwise.

At the Saddam-'Arafat meeting the two sides stressed "the need to formulate a unified public and official Arab stand to create a comprehensive balance in support of Iraq against the Zionist and imperialist threats and aggression in a way that guarantees Arab Palestinian rights."

Once again the PLO chief got carried away by sentiments and mixed up two unrelated issues. Supporting Iraq and guaranteeing Palestinian rights are two separate, unrelated and diverse issues. If the obsolete 'Arab factor' is removed from the equation, Saddam's rulership has the potential to be identified as an Israeli ally—his dependence on the West bringing him closer to Tel Aviv than the Arab capitals. Saddam's counterparts in Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Saudi Arabia also talk of 'confronting the Zionist enemy' but with the virtue of their subservient and treacherous policies have helped in the consolidation of the Israeli entity.

It is no secret that the reactionary Arab bloc is begging for a peace treaty with Israel in the framework of a Mideast peace conference. But it is not getting one. Israeli rulers are aware that by pulling the right strings they can make some influential Arab leaders kneel down before any treaty is signed.

Post-revolutionary Iran has, as a matter of policy, opposed any form of understanding with the usurper regime in Israel. The leader of the Islamic Revolution and republic Imam

Khomeyni was one of the staunchest opponents of Israel and went so far as to call for the annihilation of the occupying power from the face of the earth.

Despite Tehran's uncompromising stance on the issue of occupied Palestine, treacherous Arab rulers have in the past accused Iran of conducting secret military transactions with the Jewish state. During the war years Iraq and its close Arab allies spread unfounded rumors to this effect to tarnish Iran's revolutionary image and hurt its efforts at solidifying Muslim forces to fight the enemies of Islam and Muslims.

Addressing millions of al-Quds Day demonstrators and Friday prayer worshippers in Tehran on April 20, President Akbar Hashemi-Rafsanjani lashed out at the illegitimate state of Israel and also attacked reactionary Arab leaders for their inaction.

'There is no bigger threat to the Islamic world today than Israel. There is no higher duty than the duty to fight against Israel,' the demonstrators heard Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani as saying. The Iranian leader further noted that 'in the Islamic world there are many leaders who understand this reality but do nothing'. He referred to the Egyptian regime's conspiracy and involvement in the immigration of Soviet Jews to Israel.

To a significant degree it has been established that Iran's economic problems are in part related to its declared hostility against Israel and its 'Western backers. Tehran's uncompromising stance on Palestine and its aim to work for the cause of Islam and justice has placed the country on the West's black list. One of the reasons Iran is called a terror state is Tehran's open support for militants struggling against Israeli tyranny in the occupied lands and Lebanon.

Iranian deeds and Iraqi rhetoric vis-a-vis the Palestinian issue is no secret. Mr. 'Arafat's non-stop lobbying in reactionary and pro-Western Arab capitals has failed to give the results he might have expected to achieve over the years. His failure to close ranks with recognized progressive forces inside the Palestinian factions and continued appeal for peace with Tel Aviv has surprised most of his supporters, in the occupied territories. Muslims in general and the thousands of Palestinians living in sub-human conditions for more than four decades are bound to ask Mr. 'Arafat some critical questions if he does not deliver in the short run. By trying to forget Zionist and imperialist conspiracies against his people and his inability in coming up with practical solutions to the decades-old Palestinian problem, there is reason to believe that 'Arafat has done little service to the people and organization he leads. By sailing in Saddam's boat he might as well be committing another strategic error.

President Names University Jihad Council Members
LD1205232690 Tehran Television Service in Persian
1700 GMT 12 May 90

[Text] In separate decrees issued by Mr. Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president and the head of the Supreme

Council of Cultural Revolution, Messrs Faramarz Haq-Shenas, 'Ali Mohammad Mozaffari, and 'Ali Montazeri were appointed as members of the Central Council of University Jihad; and Sadeq Va'ez-zadeh was appointed as the Supreme Council of Cultural revolution's representative to the Central Council of University Jihad.

New Governor-General Appointed 17 May

LD1705134390 *Tehran Domestic Service in Persian*
1030 GMT 17 May 90

[Text] The Interior Minister Mr. Nuri, in this morning's meeting of officials of Chahar-Mahal va Bakhtiari Province—which took place in the presence of the representative of Vali-ye Faqih [supreme jurisconsult] in that province; the Friday prayer leader of the Shahr-e Kord; and provincial Friday prayer leaders and officials—paid tribute to the services of Mr. Reza'i, the former governor-general of that province. Then he introduced Mr. Eslamiyan as the new governor-general of Chahar-Mahal va Bakhtiari Province.

***Appointments to Various Offices Announced 11 Apr**

90AS0033D *Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian*
11 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] Based on the proposal of Dr. 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the approval of Hojjat ol-Eslam Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Ahmad Saraj-Zadeh, ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Venezuela, was appointed as the accredited ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran to Guyana.

Following a personnel action by Engineer Zangeneh, minister of energy, Mohammad Keyhani was appointed as the managing director of the Satkab Commercial Services Company.

***More Appointments Announced 18 Apr**

90AS0057E *Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian*
18 Apr 90 p 4

[Excerpt]

- By separate decrees from Gholam Reza Foruzesh, minister of construction jihad, Engineer Enayatollah Turang was appointed as the new administrator of the Jihad Office in Tanzania, and Engr. Javad Tavakoli was appointed as the administrator of the Jihad Office in Ghana.
- By a decree from the Head of the Scientific and Industrial Research Organization, Engr. Qasem Ramazanpur-Nargesi was appointed as the Technical Deputy of the organization and the Head of the Revolution Era Research Complex.
- By separate decrees by Engr. 'Ali Mohammad Nurian, deputy minister of roads and transport and administrator of the National Meteorological Organization, Mahmud Shahbahr was appointed as administrative and finance deputy, 'Abdollah Sedaqat-Kerdar was

appointed as deputy for research and education, and 'Abbas Eshaqi was appointed as technical and coordination of the regional affairs deputy of this organization.

- By separate decrees by Engr. Majid Maleki-Tabar, chief executive officer of the Post Company of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Engr. 'Ali Akbar Baqer-Nasrabadi, member of the Board of Directors, was also appointed as the executive for implementation of the plan to equip the Mail Mechanization Centers. Yahya Dehqani was appointed as the director general for the Office of Mail Routes.
- By a decree from the Central Council of the University Crusade, Dr. Hoseyn Rahimi was appointed as the adviser and chairman of the Central Council of the University Crusade for research affairs.
- Per the suggestion of Dr. Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs, and the approval of the president 'Abdulasul Mohajer-Hejazi was appointed as the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Romania.
- The Public Relations Office of the Ministry of Energy announced that, by a decree from Engr. Zangeneh, minister of energy, Jahangir Asghari was appointed as the Chief Executive Officer of the Water and Power Company of Kish.

***More Appointments Announced 25 Apr**

90AS0057D *Tehran KEYHAN-E HAVA'I in Persian*
25 Apr 90 p 3

[Text]

- His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, leader of the Islamic revolution, by a decree appointed Hojjat ol-Eslam Reyshahri, the keeper of the holy shrine of His Holiness 'Abdul'azim al-Hasani and other attached holy shrines.

The text of the decree is as follows:

In the name of God, the Compassionate, the Merciful, I appoint his Excellency Hojjat ol-Eslam Mohammadi-Reyshahri, may his contributions prevail, as the keeper of the holy shrine of His Holiness 'Abdul'azim al-Hasani and other attached holy shrines.

It is necessary that you protect and maintain the donations, the properties, and the income of this holy shrine with care and diligence and utilize them for the construction of required buildings, services for the pilgrims and the people of Shahr-e Rey, propagation and publication of the work of the holy family (God's peace upon them), and in the service of the dispossessed and downtrodden, and prevent any kind of misappropriation of funds.

With thanks from Hojjat ol-Eslam Mr. Mula'i, I pray to God for your success. [Signed] Seyyed Ali Khamene'i

[Dated] 9 April 1990

By a decree from the exalted leadership and the commander in chief of the Armed Forces for the formation and activation of the General Headquarters of the

Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps, executives and deputies of the chief of general staff were named by Mohsen Reza'i, the commander of the Revolutionary Guard Corps, and endorsed by the exalted leadership.

The Public Relations Office of the Revolutionary Guard Corps' Command announced these appointments as follows:

1. 'Ali Larijani, deputy chief of General Staff of the [Revolutionary Guard] Corps.
2. Ghafur Hajsalem, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for planning and programs.
3. Akbar Ghamkhar, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for logistics.
4. Mohammad'ali (Aziz) Ja'fari, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for operations.
5. Mohammad Sattari-Vafa'i, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for engineering.
6. 'Alireza 'Andalib, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for manpower.
7. Morteza Izadpanah, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for coordination.
8. Ahmad Vahidi, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for information.
9. Amir Hayatmoghaddam, deputy chief of General Staff of the Corps for training.
10. Seyyed 'Ali Hoseyni-Tash, commander of Imam Hoseyn University.
11. Mostafa Rabi'i, director general of the Corps' Headquarters for communication.
12. Dr. Ahmad Shoja'i, director general of the Corps's Headquarters for health.
13. Mohammad Reza Shahabeddin, director general of the Corps' Headquarters for finance.

With the confirmation of His Holiness Ayatollah Khamene'i, by a decree from Commodore Shamkhani, commander of the Navy, Second Commodore 'Abbas Mohtaj was appointed as the deputy commander of the Navy.

Prior to this appointment, Second Commodore 'Abbas Mohtaj was the commander of the Joint Operations Bases of the Corps and the Army in the south and west of the country and, also, chief of General Staff of the Revolutionary Guard Corps. His last post was the deputy commander of the Ground Forces of the Revolutionary Guard Corps.

Per the recommendation of Dr. Velayati and the endorsement of the president of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Javad Mansuri, the ambassador of the Islamic

republic of Iran in Islamabad, was appointed as the accredited ambassador to Nepal.

By the appointment of Dr. Iraj Fazel, minister of health and treatment, Dr. 'Ali Arab-Kheradmand, the Director General for the Semnan Province Health and Treatment Regional Organization, was also appointed as the Administrator of Semnan Medical Science University.

Also, by decrees from Dr. Seyyed Shahabeddin Sadr, the Deputy for Cultural Affairs, Hamid Reza Taleqhani was appointed as the secretary for the Islamic Culture Committee of the Medical Science University of Esfahan.

By a decree from Dr. Reza Malekzadeh, the deputy for Education, Dr. Mohammad'ali Mohaqeqi was appointed as the director general of the Office of Supervision and Evaluation of this organization.

By a decree from Dr. Mohammadreza Zali, deputy for Research, Dr. Jamaledin Tabibi was appointed as the assistant to the deputy for research and administrator of the Office of Scientific and International Cooperation.

By a decree from Majid Maleki-Tabar, chief executive officer of the Post Company of the Islamic Republic, Ahmad Mir-Shahvaladi was appointed as the executive in charge of implementation of the Cash-On-Delivery (Purchasing Mail) plan.

***Velayati Attacked by Opposition in New York**

90AS0046B London KEYHAN in Persian
3 May 90 pp 1, 14

[Text] Following the death of Dr. Kazem Rajavi (brother of Mas'ud Rajavi) in Geneva at the hands of agents of the Islamic Republic, 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic, was attacked by three Iranians attending the press conference at the United Nations in New York. The three threw eggs at 'Ali Akbar Velayati and shouted: "Oh murderer, oh torturer." However, U.S. security forces in charge of protecting the foreign ministers during their stay in New York rescued Velayati and arrested all three. According to the representative of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in New York, the police released all three a short time after their arrest.

Two of the three told reporters at the press conference that they were not members of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, but that they had been tortured in the prisons of the regime. Ahmad Mo'ini, one of the attackers, told reporters that his brother had been executed in prison. They told the reporters: The United Nations is not a place for murderers and torturers, and 'Ali Akbar Velayati, the representative of a torturing regime, must not be allowed to take part in the UN meetings.

According to news agencies, following this event, the permanent delegation of Iran at the United Nations issued a communique identifying Velayati's attackers as supporters of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and

placed the blame for the attack on that organization. The representatives of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in New York issued a communique announcing that the three were not members of the organization, but that they had reacted to the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi by the terrorists of the Islamic Republic.

The representative of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in New York told a KEYHAN (London) correspondent that the egg throwers were not members of that organization and that they had attended the press conference and thrown eggs at Velayati on their own initiative.

Following this incident at the press conference, Velayati denied any involvement by the regime of the Islamic Republic in the assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi and denied that the Islamic Republic had a hand in the killing of Kazem Rajavi. Velayati considered this incident as a sign of the internal conflicts of the organization and said that there had been crucial differences between Maryam Rajavi (wife of Mas'ud Rajavi) and her brother-in-law, Dr. Kazem Rajavi.

How Kazem Rajavi Was Killed

On Tuesday morning, 24 April (4 Ordibehesht), Dr. Kazem Rajavi, the brother of Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, who in recent years had been involved in significant activities at the European headquarters of the United Nations in Geneva to expose the inhuman actions of the regime of the Islamic Republic in regard to the supporters of the organization, was attacked and killed by terrorists on his way home from shopping between the villages of Coppet and [Taneh].

Swiss police authorities, quoting eyewitness accounts, announced that the terrorists, in a blue Volkswagen Golf with two persons inside, turned in front of Kazem Rajavi's car. One of the persons, a heavy-set man with an athletic build about 30-35 years of age dressed in white work clothes and a rimmed helmet, came out of the car and opened fire on Kazem Rajavi with a machine gun. The killing of Kazem Rajavi took no more than a few minutes, and the killers sped on towards Geneva. Eyewitnesses heard a muffled sound of machine-gun fire, which indicates that the small machine gun was equipped with a silencer. One eyewitness was able to describe the general features of the killers to police. The police found 11 empty nine-millimeter caliber cartridges at the scene. Kazem Rajavi was hit by at least six bullets, two of which shattered his brain.

The Geneva police emphasized that this crime was committed by a very professional group.

In August 1987 on a sidewalk in Geneva, terrorists of the Islamic Republic killed an Iranian Air Force pilot who had taken asylum in Switzerland, but to date, no news of the event or the arrest of the murderers has been published.

A Swiss source in Geneva told KEYHAN (London) that in his opinion, Swiss authorities will not persist in the arrest of the killers of Rajavi or reveal information about them.

The car that the terrorists had rented was identified 24 hours after the crime, shortly after an Iran Air flight had left for Tehran on Wednesday (25 April) at the Geneva Airport, but the weapon fired at Kazem Rajavi has not yet been found.

The Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization immediately issued a communique placing responsibility for the crime directly on the regime of the Islamic Republic and announced that Hashemi-Rafsanjani had personally issued the order for the assassination of Kazem Rajavi.

In its communique, the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization—pointing out that, at one of the meetings, one of the members of the Islamic Republic delegation had openly threatened Dr. Rajavi with murder during the investigation of a report by the UN special human rights envoy from Tehran—announced that the head of the Islamic Republic delegation in Geneva had personally supervised the assassination plans.

Swiss police announced afterwards that the terrorists had rented the car with foreign identity documents, but did not reveal their names or nationality.

Meanwhile, Behzad Naziri, the spokesman for the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization in Geneva, announced in a press conference that Dr. Kazem Rajavi's murderers were sent from Tehran to Switzerland and returned to Tehran from Geneva after the crime on an Iran Air plane.

Mas'ud Rajavi, leader of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization, asked the Swiss government, the United Nations, and other human rights organizations to take the necessary steps to discover the identity of the murderers of his elder brother, who are mercenaries of the regime of the Islamic Republic. Mas'ud Rajavi considers Switzerland responsible for protecting the lives of the political refugees in that country.

Dr. Kazem Rajavi was 56 years old (born 29 Bahman 1313) [18 February 1935—as published]. He had lived from 1336 [21 March 1957-20 March 1958] to 1347 [21 March 1968-20 March 1969] in France and afterwards in Switzerland. When the Islamic Republic came to power, he was appointed ambassador and permanent representative of the regime at the United Nations (in Geneva) and remained at that position for less than a year. With the increased differences between the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization and the regime of the Islamic Republic, he resigned from that post. Kazem Rajavi, who had received a doctorate degree in law, political science, and social studies in Paris and Geneva, taught for many years at the faculty of law in Geneva and had authored numerous books in Persian and French. Dr. Kazem Rajavi has three children from his French-born wife: a daughter 15 and two sons, 23 and eight. Stephen, Dr. Kazem Rajavi's eldest son, said that his father was

regularly threatened, but they did not think that the Islamic Republic would dare kill him on Swiss soil.

The Reaction of Iranians

The assassination of Dr. Kazem Rajavi, who was considered an educated and distinguished person and whose political activities were mostly at the United Nations exposing the inhuman actions of the Islamic Republic regime against political prisoners, has angered many Iranians and set them against the Islamic Republic regime. Many Iranians who have consistently opposed the political and ideological policies of the Mojahedin-e Khalq Organization did not hesitate to express their disgust at this crime. Reza Pahlavi, the Iranian king, and Dr. Shapur Bakhtiar, the leader of the National Iranian Resistance Movement, were the first leaders, despite their differences in political ideology, to vigorously condemn this crime by the Islamic Republic regime and express their sorrow in regard to this crime.

***Ayatollah Araki Contradicts Khomeyni**

90AS0048C London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 8

[Text] For the first time on a religious issue, Ayatollah Araki has rejected an opinion of Ayatollah Khomeyni. Ayatollah Araki, who was asked about the "time for morning prayers on moonlit nights," opined that "in regard to morning prayers, there is no difference between moonlit and other nights (from the 12th to the 20th of every lunar month), and worshippers may perform their morning prayers immediately after the morning call for prayers."

Ayatollah Khomeyni had decreed that from the 12th to the 20th of every lunar month, worshippers must wait 15-20 minutes after the morning call for prayers to perform their prayers in order for the light of dawn to overcome the moonlight.

It should be pointed out that the first person to announce after Khomeyni's death that Ayatollah Khomeyni's religious rulings would remain valid after his death was this same Grand Ayatollah Araki.

***Potatoes Imported To Relieve Domestic Shortage**

90AS0048F London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The crisis in potatoes, which are a staple in the diet of the people of the country, still continues. In order to eliminate this potato crisis, the Islamic regime has begun to import potatoes from abroad. According to the announcements of the government officials in Tehran, at present 300-500 tons of imported potatoes are distributed daily in Tehran. The price of imported potatoes in the city and village stores has been set at 145 rials per kilo.

Despite all this and the imported potatoes, the price of potatoes has still not dropped from 450 rials per kilo on the open market.

Considering that keeping large amounts of potatoes in warehouses during the winter and early spring is not easy, and if the potatoes needed by the people had been hoarded in the warehouses, they should now have entered the market and brought down the price in the market, it seems clear that the claim of the regime concerning the hoarding of potatoes by merchants is no more than a scapegoat for the confused agricultural policy of the country.

***Ministry Seeking Domestic Vehicle Assembly**

90AS0048H London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 4

[Text] The Ministry of Heavy Industries of the Islamic Republic is trying to establish automobile assembly units in Iran with the cooperation of Italy, France, Japan, and South Korea. The news concerning the expansion of the vehicle production activities and the possibility of the production of one model of Fiat cars in Iran was given to reporters and representatives of the media following the news of the signing of agreements for the expansion of economic cooperation between the Islamic Republic and Italy.

Engineer Safari, the general manager of Iran Khodrow company, said some time ago that so far they have received no written proposal from the Fiat Company in Italy.

He emphasized that because decision making concerning the manufacture of new vehicles is given priority in the policies of the Ministry of Heavy Industries, if within the next few months a significant, satisfactory proposal is received from the Fiat Company, such a proposal could also be studied.

In connection with the rumor of the suspension of negotiations concerning the production of the Peugeot in Iran, the general manager of Iran Khodrow said: "The contract with Peugeot has not been suspended and remains in effect. Recently, in the negotiations between the new deputy director of commerce of Iran Khodrow and the officials of the Peugeot Company of France, the above-mentioned company announced its readiness to invest in and increase the production of Iran Khodrow.

The above-mentioned official said in his interview: "The contract for the production of the Peykan Peugeot was signed with France, and in this connection, we will install the engine of the Peugeot 504 in the Peykan body to produce the Peykan Peugeot."

***Limitation Placed on Land, Home Ownership**

90AS0048G London KEYHAN in Persian 26 Apr 90 p 2

[Text] The proposal for the mandatory sale of residential units in excess of two units and orchards in excess of 1,000 square meters was submitted to the Majles in the open session on 12 April. This proposal was signed by 32 extremist members of the Majles, including Asadollah Bayat, the deputy speaker of the Majles, and 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, whose credentials were ratified last week.

This proposal is prepared in six articles and seven notes and allows the Islamic government to identify the extra homes and orchards of individuals, sell them at the "appraised price" to persons who have no homes or orchards and pay the received amount to the original owners of the property, after the deduction of expenses.

In order to determine who has more than two residential units and more than 1,000 square meters of orchards within the limits of large cities, committees will be established in the cities. The members of these committees will be the governors and mayors, the director of the office of documents and land registration and the revolution prosecutor of the cities.

The only exception anticipated for owners of residential units and orchards in excess of the quota is long, voluntary 150-year leases to the revolutionary institutions, such as the mobilization, the Guard Corps, and government organizations, as determined by the Islamic government.

The text of the above-mentioned proposal is as follows:

Article 1: According to this law, the government shall be allowed to sell those residential units and orchards of individuals who themselves or their dependents, spouse, children, etc., on the date of the ratification of this law, have more than two residential units or more than 1,000 meters of gardens or orchards within the city limits at the appraised price to persons who have no homes and to return this price to the owners of the above-mentioned residential units and orchards after the deduction of the related expenses.

Note 1: The maximum allowable area under construction and lot for two residential units in large cities subject to this law will be decided by the committee on Article 2 of this law and in accordance with the common practice of the areas in the above-mentioned cities.

Note 2: Those who inform the committee on Article 20 of this law about such excesses and help the above-mentioned committee in identifying such residential units and orchards as well as immediate family members and close relatives of the owners of the excess residential units and orchards mentioned above will be given priority over others to purchase the excess residential units and orchards, provided they have no homes in the large cities.

Note 3: The amount of allowable residential units and orchards of legal persons with a minimum of 15 shareholders shall be a maximum of twice the allowable residential units and orchards as those of actual persons.

Article 2: Identifying more than two residential units and 1,000 square meters of land in the form of orchards or gardens subject to this law and the procedure for the sale of said properties to persons who meet the requirements will be the duty of a committee composed of five persons as follows in each city. 1. The governor of that city, who will be the chairman of the committee. 2. The revolution prosecutor of that city. 3. The mayor of that

city. 4. The director of urban land of that city. 5. The director of the office of documents and land registration of that city.

Note: If the owners of the excess residential units and orchards subject to this law have no objections, within five years after the notification of the above-mentioned committee as to the decision of the committee, the committee ruling shall be final and may be implemented.

Article 3: In order to investigate the complaints and objections of the owners of the excess residential units and orchards stated in this law in regard to the decision of the committee on Article 2 and also in order to supervise the procedure of the committees stated in the above-mentioned Article 2 and to create the necessary coordination among them, a committee called the committee for investigations of complaints for the implementation of this law shall be formed with the following composition in the presidential institution. 1. Vice president for executive affairs, who shall be the chairman of the committee. 2. The permanent and fully authorized representative of the judicial branch. 3. The permanent and fully authorized representative of the Ministry of Interior (at the deputy minister level). 4. The permanent and fully authorized representative of the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (at the deputy minister level). 5. The governor of the related city, depending on the case. 6. Two representatives of the Majles, to be selected by the Majles for a period of two years to participate as observers in the meetings of the committee.

Note 1: The above-mentioned committee shall be responsible for investigating the complaints and protests within a period of 15 days from the date of their receipt in the administrative office of the committee and to notify the related committee on Article 2 and the plaintiff. The majority vote of the above-mentioned committee shall be final and must be implemented.

Note 2: The above-mentioned committee may have inspectors to supervise the procedure of the operations of the committees stated in Article Two of this law.

Article 4: The following "actual and legal" excess residential units shall be exempted from this law.

1. That group of persons who have leased their residential units for 15 years and are in compliance with the determined tariffs by the government to individuals who have no housing and have been identified by the government organizations, government factories, and revolutionary institutions and have signed the necessary applicable official government documents.

2. Those persons who are engaged in construction and sales and have valid permits for the above-mentioned trade from the general office of housing and urban development of the related provinces.

Article 5: The president shall be responsible for the precise implementation of this law. The detailed implemental bylaws of each article of this law will be prepared within a maximum period of two months by the vice president for executive affairs with the cooperation of the Ministries of Interior and Housing and Urban Development and the judicial branch and ratified by the Cabinet.

Note 1: All executive, judicial, military, and law enforcement organizations and revolutionary institutions must cooperate with the committees in Article 2 and the committee stated in Article 3 of this law in the precise implementation of this law.

Note 2: This law shall be implemented as an emergency measure for a period of 10 years.

Article 6: The expenditures needed to implement this law shall be taken care of from the funds collected from the buyers of the excess residential units and orchards cited in this law.

[Signed] Seyyed Hadi Khamene'i, Dr. Rahchamani, Najafqoli Habibi, Mohammad Hoseyn Jahangiri, 'Ali Asghar Ja'fari-Esfahani, Ahmad Rahbari, Salehabadi, 'Ali Akbar Mohtashemi, Zakeri, Seyyed Mohammad Qoreyshi, Qasem Me'mari, Asghar Nowruzi, Seyyed Mohammad Ha'eri, Fakhroddin Hejazi, Ashrafi-Esfahani, Zabihollah Safa'i, Salamati-Hazrati, Mirza Abutalebi, Asadollah Razavi, 'Isa Vela'i, Mohammad Baqerinezhad-Dabestani, Asadollah Bayat, Mohammad Qomi, Taherizadeh, Katira'i, Mahmud Rebat, Behzadian, Sa'idianfar, 'Alireza Rostami, Khodanazar Qasemi.

*Qeshm Island Declared Second Free Port

90AS0057B Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Apr 90 p 3

[Text] As of yesterday, the 516 square mile island of Qeshm—located at the south-eastern tip of the Persian Gulf (Strait of Hormuz)—began trade activities without the need for custom's fees as the second free port of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

According to a press report which was published in Tehran on Tuesday (10 April), all preliminary work for the declaration of another island, belonging to the Islamic Republic of Iran, as a free port has been prepared and observers believe that such a move will result in the expansion of the trade activities of Iran with neighboring countries and others in the region.

According to this publication, the decision to declare Qeshm Island as the second free trade port, after Kish Island, was recently taken by appropriate Iranian officials.

Qeshm Island is one of the most populous Iranian islands and also the largest in the Persian Gulf with 70 miles in length and seven to 20 miles in width. The population of this and its surrounding islands is about 50,000.

The people of Qeshm are mostly engaged in the fishing industry. However, with the recent decision and the desired expansion plans for Qeshm, which according to a reliable source includes heavy industrial activities, this island will be one of the most active commercial and industrial centers in the Persian Gulf and the Sea of Oman.

According to this source, the inclusion of the two islands of Kish and Qeshm as free trade ports—the former for its geographical position and natural attractions as a free trade and tourism center and the latter as a free industrial port—is among the objectives of the government of the Islamic Republic of Iran aimed at expansion of such activities.

Reports by the Islamic Republic News Agency indicate that, on the other hand, due to the existence of ports and moorings in the northern section of Qeshm island—such as Dargahan, La'ft, Guran, Dula'b, Chahou, Kenarsiah, Darkou and Basa'id—and their proximity to Bandar 'Abbas which has extensive land transportation links with the rest of the country, there is a bright future for trade activities in the island of Qeshm.

Qeshm Island, like other ports on the Persian Gulf, has a warm and moist climate. The average annual rainfall in this island is very low and winter is its only rainy season.

*Borujerdi on Latest Changes in Afghanistan

90AS0056A Tehran JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI in Persian 11 Apr 90 p 2

[Interview with Borujerdi, deputy minister of Foreign Affairs, by JOMHURI-YE ESLAMI; date and place not specified]

[Text] News division—The deputy minister of foreign affairs of the Islamic Republic of Iran explained the new problems of Afghanistan and the position of Iran concerning recent international changes in this regard in an exclusive interview.

Mr. Borujerdi, the deputy minister of foreign affairs for Asia and Oceania, said in an exclusive interview with our reporter about the new changes in the Islamic Republic of Iran concerning the issue of Afghanistan: Considering the importance of the issue of Afghanistan in various areas, it is necessary for the Islamic Republic of Iran to act very energetically in this area and have a very active political presence on the scene with regard to Afghanistan, both on the international side and in connection with the Soviet Union, Pakistan, and even the United Nations.

In this connection, we have had many consultations and contacts with Pakistan in which the various issues of Afghanistan have been discussed.

He then added: At the present time, various plans have been proposed by various sides about the issue of Afghanistan, the USSR's Shevardnadze plan, the Americans' Baker plan, the UN plan, the Najib regime's plan,

and the plan of the mujahidin in Pakistan, which is supported by the Government of Pakistan.

Our talks with Pakistan were about the proposal of the mujahidin in Peshawar, called the "election plan" inside Afghanistan, for the establishment of the parliament and ultimately the government. This plan, in fact, comprises a stage in the political steps for determining a desired government in Afghanistan.

He then referred to the clear position of the Islamic Republic in regard to the issue of Afghanistan and the future of that country and said: We believe that an independent, nonaligned, Islamic government must be established in Afghanistan, and clearly the people of that country must determine that government. Naturally, we support free elections throughout Afghanistan. But at the present time, due to the fact that a part of Afghanistan is still under the puppet regime in that country, essential preparations must be made to include all the people of that country and all the Afghan refugees residing in Iran and Pakistan as well.

Considering that the "election plan" is the plan of the seven groups residing in Peshawar, the leaders of the mujahidin groups in Peshawar have discussed this plan in detail with the Afghan mujahidin in Iran during their visits to the Islamic Republic of Iran. The mujahidin residing in Iran also have a separate plan concerning the elections, and upon the invitation of the groups in Peshawar, in the near future they shall go to Pakistan to discuss with the others their views in this regard.

Concerning the principle of holding free elections in Afghanistan, he said: We support this action as an essential step in the determination of the fate of Afghanistan by the people of that country, but in regard to the holding of the elections and the principles, we have certain views that we shall announce. Of course, our main emphasis has always been the determination of the fate of Afghanistan by the Muslim people of that country without interference by the superpowers. Any other plan shall only succeed if it is agreed to by the Muslim Afghan mujahidin as the true representatives of the people of Afghanistan.

Concerning securing the freedom of the elections of Afghanistan, Mr. Borujerdi said: The elections must be absolutely free. Any atmosphere that is not free or conditions such as those that exist today in the occupation of the Kabul regime will prevent these elections. We believe that the active group on the scene in Afghanistan must prepare the desired conditions for the elections.

Mr. Borujerdi continued: As a country with more than 800 km of land bordering Afghanistan, we have always supported the Islamic uprising of the people of that country and are prepared to place our experiences of 11 years at the disposal of the Muslim people of Afghanistan. Essentially, we reject the imposition of any sort of plan by anyone and consider it the right of the people of Afghanistan to determine their own fate.

Concerning the recent visit of two UN representatives to Iran to negotiate on the issue of Afghanistan, he said: Recently, Mr. Swan, the deputy of the UN general secretary and his special representative in the affairs of Afghanistan, as well as Mr. Picco traveled to Iran, where discussions were held on the current active issues of Afghanistan and the various plans and viewpoints of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Concerning the new policy of the United Nations to grant aid to the Afghan refugees in Pakistan, he said: The United Nations granted some help to the Afghan refugees, especially those in Pakistan, and the recent severance of this help will cause problems in Pakistan. The representatives of the United Nations said during their visit that from now on, the aid to the Afghan refugees will be distributed among them inside Afghanistan. This means that the Afghan refugees must return to their country.

The deputy for Asia and Oceania of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs said in regard to the return of the Afghan refugees to the Islamic country of Afghanistan: We believe that the return of the suffering Afghan refugees to their country must be honorable and with dignity.

Concerning the future of the regime governing Kabul, he said: The Soviet Union believes that the Najib regime in Afghanistan should not be dismantled. The Americans believe the opposite, but on the whole, the news from the Malta meeting indicates that the two superpowers have reached an agreement regarding the survival of the puppet regime of Kabul during the transitional phase of power. They believe that the elections must take place in the presence of the regime of Najib and then power be transferred. But the Islamic Republic believes in the holding of elections under absolutely free conditions.

Concerning the visits and negotiations of the delegations of the Afghan mujahidin in Peshawar with the Afghan mujahidin in Iran and the officials of the Islamic Republic of Iran, Mr. Borujerdi said: During the past two months, several leaders of the Afghan mujahidin in Peshawar came to Tehran and held detailed negotiations with the leaders of the mujahidin and the officials of the Islamic Republic. The discussions centered on the election plan of the united seven groups about the future of Afghanistan. They tried to gain the support of the Islamic Republic of Iran, because experience has shown that the success of any plan without taking into consideration the views of the Islamic Republic of Iran is not practical.

Also, the representatives of the mujahidin groups in Iran were invited to continue negotiations and hold the third round of talks in Peshawar. This will take place in the future.

The deputy of the foreign ministry said in regard to the effects of the establishment of the assembly of the Shiites of Afghanistan in Tehran: This assembly was a basic movement and took a valuable step in uniting all the Afghan groups. Unfortunately, one of the problems of the Afghan groups in Iran and Pakistan has been their lack of unity of words. Considering the importance of the issue of unity, especially unanimity in political issues,

the Shiites invited all the mujahidin commanders who had been fighting for years inside Afghanistan and the distinguished Shiites residing in all countries to the most worthwhile gathering and in their resolution announced that the administrative office of this assembly would be established in Tehran to act as the permanent headquarters of the Shiites of Afghanistan.

In conclusion, he expressed hope that in the near future we will witness the absolute unity of the Afghan Shiites and that the Afghan Shiites will be able to declare their unity to the world. This unity will certainly have very valuable effects on the success of all the people of Afghanistan, both Shiite and Sunni. Of course, this gathering does not mean a lack of cooperation with the Sunni mujahidin brothers in Pakistan. We believe that all the Shiite and Sunni groups must join hands to bring the struggle to final victory.

Pakistan

Paper Says U.S. Wants Kashmir Issue 'Shelved'

BK1805102090 Lahore THE NATION in English
18 May 90 p 6

[Editorial: "Washington's Special Envoy"]

[Text] A "special envoy" of the U.S. President accompanied by two senior aides will leave Washington tomorrow on a peace mission to India and Pakistan. He is being sent, as a White House spokesperson said, to deliver a personal message from Mr Bush and to gain a firsthand appreciation of the Kashmir situation from leaders of both countries. The move is meant to convey Washington's concern over the "deteriorating situation in Kashmir" and its fall-out on Indo-Pakistan relations. "The U.S. deeply regrets the current violence in Kashmir," said the White House spokesperson and called on all sides to take "steps to restore calm and security and to allow political dialogue to address the problem of Kashmir." The special envoy has been assigned the task of defusing tension between India and Pakistan since the U.S. does not seem to have any interest in the Kashmir problem beyond it being a potential source of war in South Asia. Though the White House spokesperson mentioned "violation of Human Rights" as an indication of increasing conflict, "open warfare" in Kashmir was also cited as the source of trouble. And by equating the two an alibi was offered for New Delhi's excesses.

Apparently the Americans want to remain neutral on Kashmir and play the honest broker between India and Pakistan. And not withstanding Islamabad's enduring quest for a "special relationship" they consider both India and Pakistan as "friends of ours." They are welcome to take positions which suit their global strategy, but should desist from selling a peace recipe which runs counter to Pakistan's national interest, particularly when they have the facility to use their clout with the Government of Pakistan as a leverage. What Washington wants

to achieve by sending a special envoy is obvious. In the name of "peace" and "security" in the region, it is an attempt to once again consign the Kashmir issue to limbo. The freedom struggle in Kashmir does not ring any bells in Washington, neither the cause nor the spirit of resistance against Indian oppression evokes sympathy or support. It is merely deemed an issue of discord between India and Pakistan which should be shelved in order to avoid war. That Pakistan does not want war is more than obvious, and an armed conflict between India and Pakistan is by no means a solution of the Kashmir problem. Nevertheless Pakistan cannot be pressured into abandoning its moral obligation to support the right of self-determination of the Kashmiri people. And if President Bush's envoy wants to seek peace between India and Pakistan at the cost of bargaining away the freedom of Kashmir, he will find no takers for his peace package in Pakistan.

UN Officials on Return of Refugees to Afghanistan

BK1705130490 Hong Kong AFP in English 1250 GMT
17 May 90

[Text] Islamabad, May 17 (AFP)—Some 100 families of Afghan refugees are leaving Pakistan's southwestern Balochistan Province for home per day, United Nations officials said here Thursday [17 May].

The officials said the refugees' return to Afghanistan began in early May, soon after the festival of 'Id al-Fitr marking the end of the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan. The people were seen moving with their belongings in trucks towards Afghanistan, they said.

The U.N. sources said the number of people, leaving mostly for the southern Afghan province of Qandahar, was twice the figure recorded last year over the same period. They said 30,000 to 60,000 Afghan refugees had left Balochistan last year but the number of returnees could swell this year to 100,000 to 150,000.

Out of 3.2 million Afghan refugees who fled the country after the Soviet intervention of 1979 plunged the country into civil war, about one million are said to be residing in Balochistan Province.

It was not specified if the people leaving were only the war-displaced Afghans or nomadic tribes who are seasonal migrants and keep on changing their abode along the border.

5 Killed, 4 Injured in Hyderabad Shootings

BK1805073690 Islamabad Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 18 May 90

[Text] In Hyderabad, five persons were killed and four others injured in various parts of the city in sudden shooting incidents. A press note issued by the district magistrate of Hyderabad said that police and law enforcement agencies carried out raids in Hyderabad and Latifabad to recover illegal arms. Many persons involved in these cases were arrested.

18 May 1990

The district magistrate of Hyderabad has announced that the curfew in Hyderabad city and curfew-bound areas of the subdivision will be relaxed from 1300 to 1500 today.

The curfew will be relaxed in Model Colony, Malir, and Malir Extension police station areas in Karachi from 0900 to 1800 today.